

A
COLLECTION
OF THE
SUFFERINGS
Of the PEOPLE called
QUAKERS,

FOR THE
Testimony of a Good Conscience,

FROM

The TIME of their being first distinguished by
that NAME in the Year 1650, to the TIME of
the *Act*, commonly called the *Act of Toleration*,
granted to *Protestant* Dissenters in the first Year
of the Reign of King WILLIAM *the Third* and
Queen MARY, in the Year 1689.

Taken from ORIGINAL RECORDS and other AUTHENTICK ACCOUNTS,
By JOSEPH BESSE. K

VOLUME I.

JOHN xv. 20. *The Servant is not greater than the LORD: If they have
persecuted me, they will also persecute you.*

PSAL. xxxiv. 19. *Many are the Afflictions of the Righteous, but the LORD
delivereth him out of them all.*

PSAL. xii. 5. *For the Oppression of the Poor, for the Sighing of the Needy, now will
I arise, saith the LORD: I will set him in Safety from him that puffeth at him.*

L O N D O N :

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BY JOSEPH BASS.

VOLUME I.

John and his brethren were gathered from the Lord: If they have
performed and will still persevere, you
shall know of them: I mean the Affection of the Spirit, in the Lord
I will give you: I will give you in safety from that which is at hand
For the Oppression of the Poor, for the Suffering of the Weak, more will
I give you: I will give you in safety from that which is at hand

LONDON:
Printed and sold by Luke Hinde, at the Bible in George-Street,
London-Street, M.DCC.LIII.

THE P R E F A C E TO THE R E A D E R.

IT was an excellent Observation of Jesus the Son of Syrach, that Gold is tried in the Fire, and acceptable Men in the Furnace of Adversity : Parallel to which is that of the Apostle Paul, All that will live godly in Christ Jesus, shall suffer Persecution. Those that live otherwise cannot go through it. 'Tis a severe Test upon the Hypocrite and Earthly-minded. Such shrink at the Apprehension of it, and retire, with Demas, to the Embraces of this present World. Those only who have weighed the Earth with its transitory Possessions, Pleasures and Delights, in the Balance of the Sanctuary, where they have been found even as nothing, and lighter than Vanity, who know their Affections weaned from Things that are below, and set on Things that are above, who are dead, and whose Life is hid with Christ in God, are made strong in the Lord, and enabled to suffer cheerfully for his Name and Truth's Sake, not being moved at these light Afflictions, which are but for a Moment, knowing that they are thereunto appointed, and that for their Encouragement God hath promised, When thou passest through the Waters, I will be with thee, and through the Rivers, they shall not overflow thee : When thou walkest through the Fire, thou shalt not be burnt, neither shall the Flame kindle upon thee, for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy one of Israel, thy Saviour.

Ecclesiasticus

ii. 5.

2 Tim. iii. 12.

2 Tim. iv. 10.

Psal. lxii. 9.

Col. iii. 3.

1 Thes. iii. 3.

2 Cor. iv. 17.

1 Thes. iii. 3.

Isa. xliii. 2.

A Measure of this holy Faith, and a Sense of this divine Support, bore up the Spirits of the People called Quakers, for near forty Years together, to stem the Torrent of Opposition, equally testifying against Prophaneness and Immorality on the one hand, and Superstition and Will-worship on the other. Nor could it be expected, that a Testimony levelled both against the darling Vices of the Laity, and the forced Maintenance of the Clergy, should meet with any other than an unkind Reception. The Messengers of it were entertained with Scorn and Derision, with Beatings, Buffetings, Stonings, Pinchings, Kickings, Dirtings, Pumpings, and all Manner of Abuses from the rude and ungoverned Rabble : And from the Magistrates, who should have been their Defenders, they met with Spoiling of Goods, Stockings, Whippings, Imprisonments, Banishments, and even Death itself.

Under this State of Persecution, wherein they were exercised from their Infancy, (some of their Sufferings bearing an * earlier Date than the Name

* The Name Quaker was given first in the Year 1650, whereas George Fox suffered Imprisonment at Nottingham in 1649.

Exod. i. 12.

Name Quaker) their Numbers greatly increased, so that it may well be said of them, as of the Israelites in Egypt; The more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. For Religion, next to her own Light and Energy on the Minds of Men, has not a more popular Argument in her Favour, than the Patience and Constancy of her afflicted Confessors.

A Brotherly Love and Sympathy, proceeding from a Sense of one another's Innocence and Integrity, doth generally abound among Fellow-sufferers for true Religion, and was very remarkable in this People, some of whom have travelled Hundreds of Miles to visit and administer to their Brethren in Prison, and while they seemed each regardless of his own Liberty, were strenuous Advocates for that of others, zealously, and almost incessantly, in their several Turns, representing to those in Authority the suffering Cases of their Friends, either by Word of Mouth, Writing, or Print: There was a printed Paper presented to the Parliament in 1659, and subscribed by one Hundred and Sixty four of this People, wherein they make an Offer of their own Bodies, Person for Person, to lie in Prison instead of such of their Brethren as were then under Confinement, and might be in Danger of their Lives through extreme Durance, which Paper was as follows, viz.

FRIENDS,

WH O are called a *Parliament* of these Nations: We in Love to our Brethren that lie in Prisons, and Houses of Correction, and Dungeons, and many in Fetters and Irons, and have been cruelly beat by the cruel Goalers, and many have been persecuted to Death, and have died in Prison, and many lie sick and weak in Prison, and on Straw. So we in Love to our Brethren do offer up our Bodies and Selves to you, for to put us as Lambs into the same Dungeons and Houses of Correction, and their Straw and nasty Holes and Prisons, and do stand ready a Sacrifice for to go into their Places in Love to our Brethren, that they may go forth, and that they may not die in Prison, as many of the Brethren are dead already: For we are willing to lay down our Lives for our Brethren, and to take their Sufferings upon us that you would inflict upon them: And if our Brethren suffer, we cannot but feel it: And Christ saith, *It is he that suffereth and was not visited.* This is our Love towards God and Christ, and our Brethren, that we owe to them and our Enemies, who are Lovers of all your Souls and your eternal Good.

And if you will receive our Bodies, which we freely tender to you for our Friends that are now in Prison for *speaking the Truth* in several Places, for *not paying Tithes*, for *meeting together* in the Fear of God, for *not Swearing*, for *wearing their Hats*, for *being accounted as Vagrants*, for *visiting Friends*, and for Things of the like Nature, according to a Paper intituled, * *A Declaration to the Parliament*, &c. delivered the 6th Day of the Second Month called *April* 1659,

to

* That Paper gave an Account of above one Hundred and forty then in Prison, and of one Thousand and nine Hundred others who had suffered in the last six Years, also twenty one imprisoned till Death.

to the then Speaker of the said House: We whose Names are hereunto subscribed (being a sufficient Number to answer for the present Sufferers) are waiting in *Westminster-hall* for an Answer from you to us, to answer our Tenders, and to manifest our Love to our Friends, and to stop the Wrath and Judgment from coming upon our Enemies.

Henry Abbott	John Crook	Joseph Jones
Alexander Allen	Edmund Cross	Rice Jones
James Allen	Thomas Curtis	Richard Jobson
John Allington	Thomas Davenport	Thomas Kent
John Anderdon	Richard Davis	Humphry Kirby
William Archpool	Richard Deane	George Lamboll
Henry Ayres	William Dike	Joseph Langley
Humphry Bache	John Disborow	John Laurence
John Baddely	Thomas Dowen	Thomas Laurence
Daniel Baker	Rowland Eldridge	John Lee
John Barber	John Fawkes	Richard Lewis
John Barnard	James Fenner	John Love
Richard Bax	John Fielder	William Marnier
John Beckett	John Foster	Benjamin Matthew
James Beeche	John Freeborn	Robert Mildred
William Bett	John Furly jun.	Robert Moor
George Bewly	Benjamin Furly	Thomas Moor
Nicholas Bend	Roger Gaine	William Mullins
John Blackfan	Nathanael Garrard	John Newton
Edward Bland	William Garrett	Richard Newman
Thomas Blatt	John Gayon	Robert Newman
Edward Billing	William Geering	Thomas Norris
John Bolton	Edward Giles	Edward Owers
Thomas Braborn	Henry Godman	Alexander Parker
Thomas Bradley	Peter Goss	Thomas Passenger
Ninion Brockett	Richard Greenaway	William Pennington
Edward Brook	James Grynier	John Pennyman
William Brown	John Hackleton	William Piersehouse
Thomas Burchett	Richard Hacker	William Plumley
Richard Bird	William Hampshire	Benjamin Pierston
Joseph Bushell	Edward Harrison	John Price
Jacob Carr	William Harwood	Richard Quick
John Carter	Cuthbert Harle	John Radley
Manasseh Casketter	Robert Hasle	George Rawlins
John Chandler	Richard Hindmarsh	Thomas Rawlinson
Richard Clipsham	John Hollis	Thomas Reese
Richard Cockbill	Justinian Holyman	Nicholas Rickman
Maximil. Cockerill	John Hope	George Robinson
Francis Collins	William Hownell	Simon Robinson
Henry Cocke	Stephen Hubbard	John Scansfield
Thomas Coveney	Robert Ingram	John Schoren
Richard Crane	Ralph Johns	Thomas Seaman
Stephen Crisp	William Johnson	Edward Shaller
VOL. I.	b	William

William Shewen	John Stedman	John Tyso
Thomas Shortland	Robert Stedman	Samuel Vause
Robert Sikes	Thomas Stedman	Robert Wade
Richard Simpson	Amor Stoddart	Christopher White
James Smith	John Stevens	Philip Williamson
Jonah Smith	William Styles	Stephen Wix
James Smither	Arthur Stanbridge	Caleb Woods
Robert Sooley	Thomas Tax	William Woodcock
Edward Southwood	James Tenning	John Woolrich
William Sparey	Rowland Tickbourn	Henry Woolger
John Starkey	William Travers	John Yardly
John Stavelin	Richard Tidder	

By these Means they demonstrated the Perfection of Christian Charity among themselves, left their Oppressors without Excuse, and have transmitted to our Times many Accounts of those early Sufferings here abstracted.

The first Laws, under which they suffered, were Acts or Ordinances of the Long Parliament: Some of which gave the Justices Power to determine Cases of Tithes, who generally gave treble Damages, and put the Execution of their Precepts into such Hands, as by excessive Seizures made the Sufferers Loss to be sometimes tenfold the original Demand.

Nor were their Persons better used, their Liberty being very precarious, for the Ordinances then in Force against Blasphemies and Heresies, gave those hard Names to what * Opinions the Law-makers thought fit, so that the Quakers were liable to Imprisonment at the Pleasure of every Justice.

Upon Cromwell's being made Protector, some Ease was expected; for the Instrument or Form of Government by him accepted and sworn to, had several † Articles in Favour of Liberty of Conscience, viz.

Art. 35. That the Christian Religion contained in the Scriptures be held forth and recommended as the publick Profession of these Nations, and that as soon as may be, a Provision less subject to Scruple and Contention, and more certain than the present, be made for the Encouragement and Maintenance of able and painful Teachers for instructing the People, and for the Confutation of Error, Heresy, and whatsoever is contrary to sound Doctrine; and that until such Provision be made, the present Maintenance shall not be taken away, nor impeached.

Art. 36. That to the publick Profession held forth, none shall be compelled by Penalties or otherwise, but that Endeavours be used to win them by sound Doctrine, and the Example of a good Conversation.

Art.

* By an Ordinance for punishing Blasphemies and Heresies, dated May the 2d 1648, the Justices might commit to Prison all such as should publish and maintain, that the two Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are not Ordinances commanded by the Word of God, or that the baptizing of Infants is unlawful and void, or that the Churches of England are no true Churches, nor their Ministers and Ordinances, true Ministers and Ordinances; or that all Use of Arms is unlawful, or that a Man is bound to believe no more than his Reason can comprehend.

† See Hughes's Abridgment of Acts and Ordinances.

Art. 37. That such as profess Faith in God by Jesus Christ, (though differing in Judgment from the Doctrine, Worship, or Discipline publicly held forth) shall not be restrained from, but shall be protected in the Profession of their Faith, and Exercise of their Religion, so as they abuse not this Liberty to the Civil Injury of others, and to the actual Disturbance of the publick Peace. Provided this Liberty be not extended to Popery or Prelacy, or to such, as under the Profession of Christ, hold forth and practice Licentiousness.

Art. 38. That all Laws, Statutes, Ordinances, and Clauses in any Law, Statute or Ordinance, to the contrary of the aforesaid Liberty, shall be esteemed null and void.

And the Protector himself, in a Speech to the Parliament on the 12th of September 1654, made a fine Harangue on that Subject, viz. 'Is not Liberty of Conscience a Fundamental? So long as there is Liberty for the supreme Magistrate to exercise his Conscience in erecting what Form of Church-Government he is satisfied he should set up, why should he not give it to others? Liberty of Conscience is a natural Right, and he that would have it, ought to give it, having Liberty to settle what he likes for the Publick. Indeed that hath been the Vanity of our Contests. Every Sect saith, Give me Liberty: But give it him, and to his Power he will not yield it to any Body else. Where is our Ingenuity? Truly that is a Thing that ought to be very reciprocal. The Magistrate hath his Supremacy, and he may settle Religion according to his Conscience: And I may say it to you, I can say it: All the Money in the Nation would not have tempted Men to fight upon such an Account as they have engaged, if they had not had Hopes of Liberty better than they had from Episcopacy, or than would have been afforded them from a Scottish Presbytery, or an English either, if it had made such Steps, or been as sharp and rigid as it threatned when it first set up. This I say is a Fundamental, it ought to be so, it is for us and the Generations to come.'

But notwithstanding these good Words, the poor Quakers found their Sufferings continued, and not only the before-mentioned Ordinances still turned against them, but their Meetings for Worship, though seemingly allowed, were in Fact prohibited, since they were punished as Sabbath-breakers, for travelling to them no farther than their distant Dwellings made necessary.

Their most innocent Actions were misrepresented. A Christian Exhortation to an Assembly after the Priest had done, was called a disturbing him in his Office. An honest Testimony against Sin in the Streets or Markets, was filed a Breach of the Peace: Hence proceeded Fines, Imprisonments, and spoiling of Goods: Nay so hot for Persecution were many Magistrates, that by an unparall'd Misconstruction of the Laws against Vagrants, they tortured with cruel Whippings the Bodies both of Men and Women of good Estate and Reputation.

Thus their Sufferings continued under the several Administrations of Government by the Long Parliament, Oliver and Richard Cromwell, the Council of State, &c. until the Restoration of King Charles the Second, Anno 1660.

But

But although the Restoration of that Monarch was ushered in with a specious Declaration for Liberty of Conscience published from Breda, wherein he thus exprest himself, viz. ' And because the Passions and ' Uncharitableness of the Times have produced several Opinions in ' Religion, by which Men are engaged in Parties and Animosities ' against each other, which when they shall hereafter unite in a ' Freedom of Conversation, will be composed or better understood : ' We do declare a Liberty to tender Consciences, and that no Man ' shall be disquieted or called in Question for Difference of Opinion in ' Matters of Religion, which do not disturb the Peace of the King- ' dom, and that we shall be ready to consent to such an Act of ' Parliament, as upon mature Deliberation shall be offered to us for ' the full granting that Indulgence.' Yet it was not long before the Quakers, who had not in any Thing disturbed the Peace of the Kingdom, were grievously persecuted, as well by the Execution of old Laws made in former Reigns against Popish Recusants, as the enacting of new ones against themselves, extending even to Banishment on pain of Death.

That the Reader may have the clearer Idea of the Injustice and Unreasonableness of the Sufferings of this People in this Reign, we think proper to prefix an Account of these Laws, which however rigorous in themselves, were made more so by the extreme Severity exercised in the Execution of them.

*In the twenty seventh Year of King Henry the Eighth, in a Law made for Payment of Tithes was this Clause : ' * If the Judge of ' an Ecclesiastical Court make Complaint to two Justices of Peace, ' Quorum unus, of any Contumacy or Misdemeanour committed by a ' Defendant in any Suit there depending for Tithes, the said Justices ' shall commit such Defendant to Prison, there to remain till he shall ' find sufficient Sureties to be bound before them by Recognizance, ' or otherwise, to give due Obedience to the Process, Proceedings, ' Decrees and Sentences of the said Court.'*

In the Beginning of Queen Elizabeth's Reign a Law was made for administering the Oath of Supremacy, which Oath (mutatis mutandis) as now required to be tendred, runs thus :

' † I A. B. do utterly testify and declare in my Conscience, that ' the King's Highness is the only supreme Governour of this Realm, ' and of all other his Highnesses Dominions and Countries, as well in ' all Spiritual and Ecclesiastical Things or Causes, as Temporal. And ' that no Foreign Prince, Prelate, State or Potentate, hath or ought ' to have any Jurisdiction, Power, Superiority, Pre-eminence or Autho- ' rity, Ecclesiastical or Spiritual within this Realm. And therefore I ' do utterly renounce and forsake all Foreign Jurisdctions, Powers, ' Superiorities and Authorities, and do promise, that from henceforth ' I shall bear Faith and true Allegiance to the King's Highness, his ' Heirs and lawful Successors, and to my Power shall assist and defend ' all Jurisdctions, Privileges, Pre-eminences and Authorities granted, ' or belonging to the King's Highness, his Heirs and Successors, or ' united

* 27 Hen. 8. Cap. 20.

† Oath of Supremacy, 1 Eliz. Cap. 1.

united and annexed to the Imperial Crown of this Realm. So help me God, and by the Contents of this Book.

In the first Year of Queen Elizabeth was also made an Act for the Uniformity of Common-Prayer and Church-Service, having this Clause :

* Every Person shall resort to their Parish-Church, and upon Lett thereof to some other, every Sunday and Holiday, upon Pain to be punished by Censures of the Church, and also to forfeit twelve Pence, to be levied by the Churchwardens there, for the Use of the Poor, upon the Offenders Goods by way of Distress.

In the 23d Year of the same Queen, a Law was made with this Clause :

Every Person not repairing to Church according to the Statute of the 1 Eliz. 2. shall forfeit twenty Pounds for every Month they so make Default, and if they so forbear by the Space of twelve Months after Certificate thereof made by the Ordinary unto the King's Bench, a Justice of Assize, Goal-Delivery, or Peace of the County, where they dwell, shall bind them with two sufficient Sureties in two Hundred Pounds at least, to the good Behaviour, from which they shall not be released, until they shall repair to Church according to the said Statute.

In the twenty ninth Year of the said Queen, another Law was made, wherein was the following Clause : † The Queen may seize all the

Goods, and two-third Parts of the Lands and Leases of every Offender not repairing to Church as aforesaid, in such of the Terms of Easter and Michaelmas as shall happen next after such Conviction, for the Sum then due for the Forfeiture of twenty Pounds a Month for so long Time as they shall forbear to come to Church, according to the said Statute of 23 Eliz. 1.

In the thirty fifth Year of the said Queen, it was enacted, that ‖ If any above Sixteen Years of Age shall be convicted to have absented themselves above a Month from Church, without any lawful Cause, or impugned the Queen's Authority in Causes Ecclesiastical, or frequented Conventicles, or persuaded others so to do, under Pretence of Exercise of Religion, they shall be committed to Prison, and there remain until they shall conform themselves, and make such open Submission as hereafter shall be prescribed. And if within three Months after such Conviction they refuse to conform, and submit themselves, being thereunto required by a Justice of the Peace, they shall in open Assize or Sessions abjure the Realm. And if such Abjuration happen to be before Justices of the Peace in Sessions, they shall make Certificate thereof at the next Assize or Goal-Delivery. And if such Offender refuse to abjure, or going away accordingly, doth return without the Queen's Licence, he shall be adjudged a Felon, and shall not enjoy the Benefit of the Clergy; but if before he be required to abjure, he makes his Submission, the Penalties aforesaid shall not be inflicted upon him.

In the third Year of King James the First, an Act was made, (after the Discovery of the Gunpowder-plot) enjoining the taking the Oath of
VOL. I. Allegiance,

* 1 Eliz. Cap. 2.

† 29 Eliz. Cap. 6.

‖ 35 Eliz. Cap. 1.

Allegiance, which Oath, afterwards called by the Name of the Test, was as follows :

I A. B. do truly and sincerely acknowledge, profess, testify and declare before God and the World, that our Sovereign Lord King James is lawful and rightful King of this Realm, and of all other his Majesty's Dominions and Countries, and that the Pope, neither of himself, nor by any Authority of the Church or See of Rome, or by any other Means with any other, hath any Power or Authority to depose the King, or to dispose of any of his Majesty's Kingdoms or Dominions, or to authorize any Foreign Prince to invade or to annoy him or his Countries, or to discharge any of his Subjects from their Allegiance and Obedience to his Majesty, or to give Licence or Leave to any of them to bear Arms, raise Tumults, or to offer any Violence or Hurt to his Majesty's royal Person or Government, or to any of his Subjects within his Majesty's Dominions. Also I do Swear from my Heart, that notwithstanding any Declaration, or Sentence of Excommunication, or Deprivation, made or granted, or to be made or granted by the Pope, or his Successors, or by any Authority derived, or pretended to be derived, from him or his See, against the said King, his Heirs or Successors, or any Absolution of the said Subjects from their Obedience, I will bear Faith and true Allegiance to his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, and him and them will defend to the utmost of my Power, against all Conspiracies and Attempts whatsoever which shall be made against his or their Persons, their Crown and Dignity, by Reason or Colour of any such Sentence or Declaration, or otherwise. And will do my best Endeavour to disclose and make known unto his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, all Treasons and traiterous Conspiracies which I shall know or hear of to be against him or any of them. And I do farther Swear, that I do from my Heart abhor, detest and abjure, as impious and heretical, that damnable Doctrine and Position, that Princes which be excommunicated or deprived by the Pope, may be deposed or murdered by their Subjects or any other whatsoever. And I do believe, and in my Conscience am resolved, that neither the Pope, nor any other Person whatsoever, hath Power to absolve me of this Oath, or any Part thereof, which I acknowledge by good and full Authority to be lawfully administered to me, and do renounce all Pardons and Dispensations to the contrary. And all these Things I do plainly and sincerely acknowledge and Swear according to the express Words by me spoken, and according to the plain and common Sense and Understanding of the same Words, without any Equivocation or mental Evasion, or secret Reservation whatsoever. And I do make this Recognition and Acknowledgement, heartily, willingly, and truly, upon the true Faith of a Christian. So help me God.

The Edge of these old Laws was now turned upon the Quakers, while the Papists, against whom they were originally made, were little molested. And as if all these were an insufficient Guard against an harmless and inoffensive People, the following new Laws were enacted, viz.

An

* *An ACT for preventing Mischiefs and Dangers
that may arise by certain Persons called Quakers
and others refusing to take lawful Oaths.*

WHEREAS of late Times certain Persons under the Name of *Quakers*, and other Names of Separation, have taken up and maintained sundry dangerous Opinions and Tenets, and (amongst others) that the taking of an Oath in any Case whatsoever, although before a lawful Magistrate, is altogether unlawful and contrary to the Word of God; and the said Persons do daily refuse to take an Oath, though lawfully tendred, whereby it often happens that the Truth is wholly suppressed, and the Administration of Justice much obstructed: And whereas the said Persons under a Pretence of religious Worship, do often assemble themselves in great Numbers in several Parts of this Realm, to the endangering of the publick Peace and Safety, and to the Terror of the People, by maintaining a secret and strict Correspondence amongst themselves, and in the mean Time separating and dividing themselves from the rest of his Majesty's good and loyal Subjects, and from the publick Congregations, and usual Places of divine Worship.

2. For the redressing therefore, and better preventing the many Mischiefs and Dangers that do and may arise by such dangerous Tenets, and such unlawful Assemblies: Be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons assembled in Parliament, and by the Authority of the same, That if any Person or Persons who maintain that the taking of an Oath in any Case soever, although before a lawful Magistrate, is altogether unlawful, and contrary to the Word of God, from and after the four and twentieth Day of *March*, in this present Year of our Lord, one Thousand six Hundred and sixty one, shall obstinately and wilfully refuse to take an Oath, where by the Laws of the Realm he or she is or shall be bound to take the same, being lawfully and duly tendred, or shall endeavour to persuade any other Person, to whom any such Oath shall in like Manner be duly and lawfully tendred, to refuse and forbear the taking of the same, or shall by printing, writing, or otherwise, go about to maintain and defend, that the taking of an Oath in any Case whatsoever is altogether unlawful; and if the said Persons commonly called *Quakers*, shall at any Time after the said four and twentieth Day of *March* depart from the Places of their several Habitations, and assemble themselves to the Number of Five or more of the Age of sixteen Years or upwards, at any one Time in any Place, under Pretence of joining in a religious Worship, not authorized by the Laws of this Realm, that then in all and every such Case, the Party so offending being thereof lawfully convicted by Verdict of twelve Men, or by his own Confession, or by the notorious Evidence of the Fact, shall lose and forfeit

' forfeit to the King's Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, for the first
 ' Offence, such Sum as shall be imposed upon him or her not
 ' exceeding five Pounds; and if any Person or Persons being once
 ' convicted of any such Offence, shall again offend therein, and shall
 ' in Form aforesaid be thereof lawfully convicted, shall for the second
 ' Offence forfeit to the King our Sovereign Lord, his Heirs and Suc-
 ' cessors, such Sum as shall be imposed upon him or her, not exceeding
 ' ten Pounds; the said respective Penalties to be levied by Distress and
 ' Sale of the Parties Goods so convicted, rendring the Overplus to the
 ' Owners if any be: And for want of such Distress, or Non-payment
 ' of the said Penalty within one Week after such Conviction, that
 ' then the said Parties so convicted, shall for the first Offence be com-
 ' mitted to the common Goal, or House of Correction, for the Space
 ' of three Months; and for the second Offence, during six Months,
 ' without Bail or Mainprize, there to be kept to hard Labour:
 ' Which said Monies to be levied shall be paid to such Person or
 ' Persons as shall be appointed by those before whom they shall be
 ' convicted, to be employed for the Increase of the Stock of the House
 ' of Correction, to which they shall be committed, and providing
 ' Materials to set them at Work. And if any Person after he in Form
 ' aforesaid, hath been twice convicted of any of the said Offences, shall
 ' offend the third Time, and be thereof in Form aforesaid lawfully
 ' convict, that then every Person so offending and convict, shall for
 ' his or her third Offence abjure the Realm, or otherwise it shall and
 ' may be lawful to and for his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, to
 ' give Order, and to cause him, her or them, to be transported in any
 ' Ship or Ships, to any of his Majesty's Plantations beyond the Seas.
 ' 3. And it is **Ordained** and **Enacted** by the Authority aforesaid,
 ' That all and every Justice of Oyer and Terminer, Justices of Assize
 ' and Goal-Delivery, and the Justices of the Peace, shall have full
 ' Power and Authority in every their open and general Sessions, to
 ' enquire, hear and determine, all and every the said Offences, within
 ' the Limits of their Commission to them directed, and to make
 ' Process for the Execution of the same, as they may do against any
 ' Person being indicted before them of Trespass, or lawfully convicted
 ' thereof.
 ' 4. And be it also **enacted**, That it shall and may be lawful to
 ' and for any Justice of Peace, Mayor, or other chief Officer of any
 ' Corporation within their several Jurisdictions, to commit to the
 ' Common-Goal, or bind over with sufficient Sureties to the Quarter-
 ' Sessions, any Person or Persons offending in the Premises, in order to
 ' his or their Conviction aforesaid.
 ' 5. **Provided** always, and be it hereby farther **enacted**, That if
 ' any of the said Persons shall after such Convictions as aforesaid, take
 ' such Oath or Oaths, for which he or she stands committed, and also
 ' give Security that he or she shall for the Time to come forbear to
 ' meet in any such unlawful Assembly as aforesaid, that then and from
 ' thenceforth such Person and Persons shall be discharged from all
 ' the Penalties aforesaid; any Thing in this Act to the contrary
 ' notwithstanding.

6. **Provided**

6. **Provided** always, and be it **enacted** by the Authority
aforesaid, That all and singular Lords of the Parliament, for every
third Offence committed against the Tenor of this Act, shall be
tried by their Peers, and not otherwise.

*An ACT to prevent and suppress seditious
Conventicles.*

WH E R E A S an Act made in the five and thirtieth
Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen *Elizabeth*,
intituled, *An ACT to retain the Queen's Majesty's Subjects in
their due Obedience*, hath not been put in due Execution by Reason
of some Doubt of late made, *Whether the said Act be still in Force*,
although it be very clear and evident, and it is hereby declared, that
the said Act is still in Force, and ought to be put in due Execution.

2. For providing therefore of farther and more speedy Remedies
against the growing and dangerous Practices of seditious Sectaries and
other disloyal Persons, who, under Pretence of tender Consciences,
do at their Meetings contrive Insurrections, as late Experience hath
shewed.

3. Be it **enacted** by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and
with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal,
and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the
Authority of the same, That if any Person of the Age of sixteen Years
or upwards, being a Subject of this Realm, at any Time after the first
Day of *July*, which shall be in the Year of our Lord one Thousand
six Hundred and sixty four, shall be present at any Assembly, Con-
venticle, or Meeting, under Colour or Pretence of any Exercise of
Religion, in other Manner than is allowed by the Liturgy or Practice
of the Church of *England*, in any Place within the Kingdom of
England, Dominion of *Wales*, and Town of *Berwick upon Tweed*;
at which Conventicle, Meeting or Assembly, there shall be five Per-
sons or more assembled together over and above those of the same
Houshold: Then it shall and may be lawful to and for any two
Justices of the Peace of the County, Limit, Division or Liberty,
wherein the Offence aforesaid shall be committed, or for the Chief
Magistrate of the Place where such Offence aforesaid shall be
committed (if it be within a Corporation where there are not two
Justices of the Peace) and they are hereby required and enjoined
upon Proof to them or him respectively made of such Offence, either
by Confession of the Party, or Oath of Witness, or notorious Evi-
dence of the Fact, (which Oath the said Justices of the Peace, and
Chief Magistrates respectively, are hereby impowered and required
to administer) to make a Record of every such Offence and Offences
under their Hands and Seals respectively, which Record so made as
aforesaid, shall to all Intents and Purposes be in Law taken and
adjudged to be a full and perfect Conviction of every such Offender
for such Offence: And thereupon the said Justices and Chief
Magistrates respectively, shall commit every such Offender so con-
victed as aforesaid, to the Goal or House of Correction, there to

remain without Bail or Mainprize, for any Time not exceeding the Space of three Months, unless such Offender shall pay down to the said Justice or Chief Magistrate, such Sum of Money not exceeding five Pounds, as the said Justice or Chief Magistrate (who are hereby thereunto authorized and required) shall fine the said Offender at for his or her said Offence: Which Monies shall be paid to the Churchwardens for the Relief of the Poor of the Parish where such Offender did last inhabit.

4. And be it farther **enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That if such Offender so convicted as aforesaid, shall at any Time again commit the like Offence contrary to this Act, and be thereof in Manner aforesaid convicted, that such Offender so convicted of every such second Offence, shall incur the Penalty of Imprisonment in the Goal or House of Correction for any Time not exceeding six Months, without Bail or Mainprize, unless such Offender shall pay down to the said Justices or Chief Magistrate, such Sum of Money not exceeding ten Pounds, as the said Justices or Chief Magistrate (who are thereunto authorized and required as aforesaid) shall fine the said Offender at for his or her second Offence: The said Fine to be disposed in Manner aforesaid.

5. And be it farther **enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That if any such Offender so convicted of a second Offence, contrary to this Act in Manner aforesaid, shall at any Time again commit the like Offence contrary to this Act, then any two Justices of the Peace and Chief Magistrate as aforesaid, respectively shall commit every such Offender to the Goal or House of Correction, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize until the next General Quarter-Sessions, Assizes, Goal-Delivery, Great Sessions, or Sitting of any Commission of Oyer and Terminer, in the respective County, Limit, Division or Liberty, which shall first happen, when and where every such Offender shall be proceeded against by Indictment for such Offence, and shall forthwith be arraigned upon such Indictment, and shall then plead the general Issue of *Not guilty*, and give any special Matter in Evidence, or confess the Indictment; and if such Offender proceeded against shall be lawfully convicted of such Offence, either by Confession or Verdict; or if such Offender shall refuse to plead the general Issue, or to confess the Indictment, then the respective Justices of the Peace at their General Quarter-Sessions, Judges of Assize, and Goal-Delivery, at the Assizes and Goal-Delivery, Justices of the Great Sessions, at the Great Sessions, and Commissioners of Oyer and Terminer, at their Sitting, are hereby enabled and required to cause Judgment to be entred against such Offender, that such Offender shall be transported beyond the Seas to any of his Majesty's foreign Plantations, *Virginia* and *New-England* only excepted, there to remain seven Years. And shall forthwith under their Hands and Seals make out Warrants to the Sheriff or Sheriffs of the same County, where such Conviction or Refusal to plead, or to confess as aforesaid, shall be, safely to convey such Offender to some Port or Haven nearest or most commodious to be appointed by them respectively, and from thence to embark such Offender

Offender to be safely transported to any of his Majesty's Plantations beyond the Seas, as shall by them also be respectively appointed, *Virginia* and *New-England* only excepted. Whereupon the said Sheriffs shall safely convey and embark, or cause to be embarked, such Offender to be transported as aforesaid, under pain of forfeiting for Default of so transporting every such Offender the Sum of forty Pounds of lawful Money; the one Moiety thereof to the King, and the other Moiety to him or them that shall sue for the same in any of the King's Courts of Record, by Bill, Plaint, Action of Debt or Information: In any of which no Wager of Law, Essoin or Protection shall be admitted. And the respective Court shall then also make out Warrants to the several Constables, Headboroughs, or Tithingmen of the respective Places where the Estate, real or personal, of such Offender so to be transported, shall happen to be, commanding them thereby to sequester into their Hands the Profits of the Lands, and to distrain and sell the Goods of the Offender so to be transported, for reimbursing of the said Sheriff all such reasonable Charges as he shall be at, and shall be allowed him by the said respective Court for such conveying or embarking of such Offender so to be transported, rendring to the Party, or his or her Assigns, the Overplus of the same if any be, unless such Offender, or some other on the Behalf of such Offender so to be transported, shall give the Sheriff such Security as he shall approve of for the paying all the said Charges unto him.

6. And be it farther enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in Default of defraying such Charges by the Parties to be transported, or some other in their Behalf, or in Default of Security given to the Sheriff as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for every such Sheriff to contract with any Master of a Ship, Merchant, or other Person, for the transporting of such Offender at the best Rate he can. And that in every such Case it shall and may be lawful for such Persons so contracting with any Sheriff for transporting such Offender as aforesaid, to detain and employ every such Offender so by them transported, as a Labourer to them or their Assigns for the Space of five Years, to all Intents and Purposes, as if he or she were bound by Indenture to such Person for that Purpose: And that the respective Sheriffs shall be allowed, or paid from the King upon their respective Accounts in the Exchequer, all such Charges by them expended for conveying, embarking and transporting, of such Persons, which shall be allowed by the said respective Courts from whence they received their respective Warrants, and which shall not have been by any of the Ways aforesaid paid, secured, or reimbursed unto them as aforesaid.

7. Provided always, and be it farther enacted, That in case the Offender so indicted and convicted for the said third Offence, shall pay into the Hands of the Register, or Clerk of the Court or Sessions, where he shall be convicted, (before the said Court or Sessions shall be ended) the Sum of one Hundred Pounds, that then the said Offender shall be discharged from Imprisonment and Transportation, and the Judgment for the same.

8. And

8. And be it farther **enacted**, That the like Imprisonment, Indictment, Arraignment and Proceedings, shall be against every such Offender as often as he shall again offend after such third Offence, nevertheless dischargeable and discharged by the Payment of the like Sum, as was paid by such Offender, for his or her said Offence next before committed, together with the additional and increased Sum of one Hundred Pounds more upon every new Offence committed : The said respective Sums to be paid as aforesaid, and to be disposed of as follows, *viz.* The one Moiety for the Repair of the Parish-Church or Churches, Chapel or Chapels, of such Parish within which such Conventicle, Assembly or Meeting, shall be held ; and the other Moiety to the Repair of the Highways of the said Parish, or Parishes, (if Need require) or otherwise for the Amendment of such Highways, as the Justices of Peace at their respective Quarter-Sessions, shall direct and appoint. And if any Constable, Headborough, or Tithingman, shall neglect to execute any the said Warrants made unto them for sequestring, distraining and selling, any of the Goods and Chattels of any Offender against this Act, for the levying such Sums of Money as shall be imposed, for the first or second Offence, he shall forfeit for every such Neglect the Sum of five Pounds of lawful Money of *England* ; the one Moiety thereof to the King, and the other Moiety to him that will sue for the same in any of the King's Courts of Record as is aforesaid. And if any Person be at any Time sued for putting in Execution any of the Powers contained in this Act, such Persons shall and may plead the general Issue, and give the special Matter in Evidence ; and if the Plaintiff be nonsuit, or a Verdict pass for the Defendant thereupon, or if the Plaintiff discontinue his Action, or if upon Demurrer Judgment be given for the Defendant, every such Defendant shall have his or their treble Costs.

9. And be it farther **enacted**, That if any Person against whom Judgment of Transportation shall be given in Manner aforesaid, shall make Escape before Transportation, or being transported as aforesaid, shall return unto this Realm of *England*, Dominion of *Wales*, and Town of *Berwick upon Tweed*, without the special Licence of his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, in that Behalf first had and obtained, that the Party so escaping or returning, shall be adjudged a Felon, and shall suffer Death as in case of Felony, without Benefit of Clergy, and shall forfeit and lose to his Majesty, all his or her Goods and Chattels for ever, and shall farther lose to his Majesty, all his or her Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, for and during the Life only of such Offender, and no longer ; and that the Wife of any such Offender, by Force of this Act, shall not lose her Dower, nor shall any Corruption of Blood grow or be by Reason of any such Offence mentioned in this Act, but that the Heir of every such Offender by Force of this Act, shall and may, after the Death of such Offender, have and enjoy the Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments of such Offender as if this Act had not been made.

10. And for the better preventing of the Mischiefs which may grow by such seditious and tumultuous Meetings, under Pretence of religious

religious Worship, be it farther **enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That the Lieutenants, or Deputy-Lieutenants, or any commissioned Officers of the *Militia*, or any other of his Majesty's Forces, with such Troops or Companies of Horse or Foot, and also the Sheriffs and Justices of Peace, and other Magistrates and Ministers of Justice, or any of them jointly or severally, within any the Counties or Places within this Kingdom of *England*, Dominion of *Wales*, or Town of *Berwick upon Tweed*, with such other Assistance as they shall think meet, or can get in Readiness with the soonest, on Certificate made to them respectively, under the Hand and Seal of any one Justice of the Peace, or Chief Magistrate, as aforesaid, of his particular Information or Knowledge of such unlawful Meetings or Conventicles, held or to be held in their respective Counties or Places, and that he (with such Assistance as he can get together) is not able to suppress or dissolve the same, shall and may, and are hereby enjoined and required to repair unto the Place where they are so held, or to be held, and by the best Means they can, to dissolve and dissipate, or prevent all such unlawful Meetings, and take into their Custody such of those Persons, so unlawfully assembled, as they shall judge to be Leaders and Seducers of the rest, and such others as they shall think fit, to be proceeded against according to the Law for such Offences.

11. And be it **enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That every Person who shall wittingly and willingly suffer any such Conventicle, unlawful Assembly or Meeting aforesaid, to be held in his or her House, Out-house, Barn or Room, Yard or Backside, Woods or Grounds, shall incur the same Penalties and Forfeitures, as any other Offender against this Act ought to incur, and be proceeded against in all Points, in such Manner as any other Offender against this Act ought to be proceeded against.

12. **Provided** also, and be it **enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Keeper of any Goal or House of Correction, shall suffer any Person committed to his Custody for any Offence against this Act, to go at large, contrary to his Warrant of Commitment according to this Act, or shall permit any Person who is at large, to join with any Person committed to his Custody by Virtue of this Act, in the Exercise of Religion differing from the Rites of the Church of *England*, then every such Keeper of a Goal, or House of Correction, shall for every such Offence forfeit the Sum of ten Pounds; to be levied, raised and disposed by such Persons, and in such Manner as the Penalties for the first and second Offence against this Act are to be levied, raised and disposed.

13. **Provided** always, That no Person shall be punished for any Offence against this Act, unless such Offender be prosecuted for the same within three Months after the Offence committed: And that no Person who shall be punished for any Offence by Virtue of this Act, shall be punished for the same Offence by Virtue of any other Act or Law whatsoever.

14. **Provided** also, and be it **enacted**, That Judgment of Transportation shall not be given against any *Feme-Covert*, unless
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her Husband be at the same Time under the like Judgment, and not discharged by the Payment of Money as aforesaid, but that instead thereof, she shall by the respective Court be committed to the Goal or House of Correction, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize for any Time not exceeding twelve Months, unless her Husband shall pay down such Sum not exceeding forty Pounds, to redeem her from Imprisonment, as shall be imposed by the said Court: The said Sum to be disposed by such Persons, and in such Manner, as the Penalties for the first and second Offences against this Act are to be disposed.

15. **Provided** also, and be it **enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, that the Justices of Peace, and Chief Magistrate, respectively empowered as aforesaid to put this Act in Execution, shall and may with what Aid, Force and Assistance, they shall think fit for the better Execution of this Act, after Refusal or Denial, enter into any House or other Place where they shall be informed any such Conventicle as aforesaid is or shall be held.

16. **Provided**, That no Dwelling-house of any Peer of this Realm, whilst he or his Wife shall be there resident, shall be searched by Virtue of this Act, but by immediate Warrant from his Majesty under his Sign-Manual, or in the Presence of the Lieutenant, or one of the Deputy-Lieutenants, or two Justices of the Peace, whereof one to be of the *Quorum* of the same County or Riding; nor shall any other Dwelling-house of any Peer, or other Person whatsoever, be entred into with Force by Virtue of this Act, but in the Presence of one Justice of the Peace, or Chief Magistrate, respectively, except within the City of *London*, where it shall be lawful for any such other Dwelling-house to be entred into as aforesaid, in the Presence of one Justice of the Peace, Alderman, Deputy-Alderman, or any one Commissioner for the Lieutenancy of *London*.

17. **Provided** also, and be it **enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That no Persons shall by Virtue of this Act be committed to the House of Correction, that shall satisfy the said Justices of the Peace, or Chief Magistrate, respectively, that he or she (and in case of a *Feme-Covert*, that her Husband) hath an Estate of Freehold or Copyhold to the Value of five Pounds *per Annum*, or personal Estate to the Value of fifty Pounds; any Thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

18. And in Regard a certain Sect called *Quakers*, and other Sectaries, are found not only to offend in the Matters provided against by this Act, but also obstruct the Proceeding of Justice by their obstinate Refusal to take the Oaths lawfully tendred unto them in the ordinary Course of Law: Therefore be it farther **enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons, being duly and legally served with Process or other Summons, to appear in any Court of Record, except Court-Leets, or as a Witness, or returned to serve on any Jury, or ordered to be examined upon Interrogatories, or being present in Court, shall refuse to take any judicial Oath, legally tendred to him by the Judge or Judges of the same Court, having no legal Plea to justify or excuse the Refusal of
the

the same Oath ; or if any Person or Persons being duly served with Process to answer any Bill exhibited against him or them in any Court of Equity, or any Suit in any Court Ecclesiastical, shall refuse to answer such Bill or Suit upon his or their Corporal Oath, in Cases where the Law requires such Answer to be put in upon Oath ; or being summoned to be a Witness in any such Court, or ordered to be examined upon Interrogatories, shall for any Cause or Reason not allowed by Law, refuse to take such Oath as in such Cases is required by Law ; that then, and in such Case, the several and respective Courts, wherein such Refusal shall be made, shall be and are hereby enabled to record, enter or register such Refusal ; which Entry or Record shall be, and is hereby made a Conviction of such Offence : And all and every Person and Persons so as aforesaid offending, shall for every such Offence incur the Judgment and Punishment of Transportation in such Manner as is appointed by this Act for other Offences.

19. **Provided** always, That if any the Person or Persons aforesaid, shall come into such Court, and take his or their Oath in these Words, *I do Swear that I do not hold the taking of an Oath to be unlawful, nor refuse to take an Oath on that Account* ; which Oath the respective Court or Courts aforesaid, are hereby authorized and required forthwith to tender, administer and register, before the Entry of the Conviction aforesaid, or shall take such Oath before some Justice of the Peace, who is hereby authorized and required to administer the same, to be returned into such Court, such Oath so made shall acquit him or them from such Punishment ; any Thing herein to the contrary notwithstanding.

20. **Provided** always, That every Person convicted as aforesaid in any Courts aforesaid, (other than his Majesty's Court of *King's Bench*, or before the Justices of Assize, or General Goal-Delivery) shall by Warrant containing a Certificate of such Conviction, under the Hand and Seal of the respective Judge or Judges, before whom such Conviction shall be had, be sent to some one of his Majesty's Goals in the same County where such Conviction was had, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize until the next Assizes or General Goal-Delivery, where if such Person so convicted shall refuse to take the Oath aforesaid, being tendred unto him by the Justice or Justices of Assize or Goal-Delivery, then such Justice or Justices shall cause Judgment of Transportation to be executed in such Manner as Judgment of Transportation by this Act is to be executed ; but in case such Person shall take the said Oath, then he shall thereupon be discharged.

21. **Provided** always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Peer of this Realm shall offend against this Act, he shall pay ten Pounds for the first Offence, and twenty Pounds for the second Offence, to be levied upon his Goods and Chattels by Warrant from any two Justices of the Peace, or Chief Magistrate of the Place or Division where such Peer shall dwell ; and that every Peer for the third and every farther Offence against the Tenour of this Act, shall be tried by his Peers, and not otherwise.

22. **Provided**

‘ 22. **Provided** also, and be it farther enacted by the Authority
 ‘ aforesaid, That this Act shall continue in Force for three Years after
 ‘ the End of this present Session of Parliament, and from thence for-
 ‘ ward to the End of the next Session of Parliament after the said
 ‘ three Years, and no longer.’

This last Act for Banishment was very extensive, being calculated to affect every Man among the Quakers in two Points, wherein they stood firm and unmoveable, viz. Their publick meeting to worship God, and refusing to Swear : This was that Law of which Judge Turner told Francis Howgill at his Trial at Appleby Assizes in 1664, saying, You meet in great Numbers, and do increase, but there is a new Statute which will make you fewer. And indeed in human Probability it was an effectual Method for that Purpose, and could scarce have failed, had not the Hand of God visibly interposed, not only by sustaining and strengthening this persecuted People under their extreme Sufferings, but in frustrating the Attempts of their Adversaries, and appearing in a remarkable Manner for their Deliverance, as by divers Instances in this Collection related will appear.

To the former Laws were added in the Year 1665, An Act for restraining Non-Conformists from inhabiting in Corporations, and about the Year 1670, An Act to prevent and suppress seditious Conventicles : The former of which, though principally intended against the Presbyterian and Independent Teachers, was yet made Use of to imprison the Quakers : The latter they stood daily exposed to by their publick Assemblies for Worship ; many of them were spoiled of their Goods, and from a considerable Substance reduced to meer Poverty, for not only their trading Stock in their Shops and Warehouses, but even their Household Goods and Bedding became a Prey to wicked Informers, so that they were sometimes constrained to lodge on the bare Boards. What terrible Havock this Act made in many Families, will appear by a Multitude of Instances in the following Collection. The said Acts were as follows.

‘ I. *An ACT for restraining Non-Conformists
 ‘ from inhabiting in Corporations.*

‘ 1. **WHEREAS** divers Parsons, Vicars, Curates, Lecturers,
 ‘ and other Persons in holy Orders, have not declared
 ‘ their unfeigned Assent and Consent to all Things con-
 ‘ tained and prescribed in the Book of Common-prayer, and Admini-
 ‘ stration of the Sacraments, and other Rites and Ceremonies of the
 ‘ Church, according to the Use of the Church of England, or have
 ‘ not subscribed to the Declaration or Acknowledgment contained in
 ‘ a certain Act of Parliament made in the fourteenth Year of his
 ‘ Majesty’s Reign, and intituled, *An Act for the Uniformity of
 ‘ publick Prayers, and Administration of Sacraments, and other Rites
 ‘ and Ceremonies, and for establishing the Form of making, ordaining,
 ‘ and consecrating of Bishops, Priests and Deacons, in the Church of
 ‘ England, according to the said Act, or any other subsequent Act ;*
 ‘ and **whereas** they, or some of them, and divers other Person or
 ‘ Persons, not ordained according to the Form of the Church of
 ‘ England,

England, and as have since the Act of Oblivion taken upon them to preach in unlawful Assemblies, Conventicles or Meetings, under Colour or Pretence of Exercise of Religion, contrary to the Laws and Statutes of this Kingdom, have settled themselves in divers Corporations in England, sometimes three or more of them in a Place, thereby taking an Opportunity to distill the poisonous Principles of Schism and Rebellion, into the Hearts of his Majesty's Subjects, to the great Danger of the Church and Kingdom.

2. Be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons in this present Parliament assembled; and by the Authority of the same, That the said Parsons, Vicars, Curates, Lecturers, and other Persons in holy Orders, or pretending to holy Orders, and all Stipendiaries, and other Persons who have been possessed of any Ecclesiastical or Spiritual Promotion, and every of them who have not declared their unfeigned Assent and Consent as aforesaid, and shall not take and subscribe the Oath following:

I A. B. do Swear that it is not lawful upon any Pretence whatsoever, to take Arms against the King, and that I do abhor that traiterous Position of taking Arms by his Authority against his Person, or against those that are commissioned by him in Pursuance of such Commissions: And that I will not at any Time endeavour any Alteration of Government either in Church or State.

3. And all such Person or Persons as shall take upon them to preach in any unlawful Assembly, Conventicle or Meeting, under Colour or Pretence of any Exercise of Religion, contrary to the Laws and Statutes of this Kingdom, shall not at any Time from and after the four and twentieth Day of March, which shall be in the present Year of our Lord God one Thousand six Hundred Sixty and five, unless only in passing upon the Road, come or be within five Miles of any City or Town Corporate, or Borough that sends Burgesses to the Parliament, within his Majesty's Kingdom of England, Principality of Wales, or the Town of Berwick upon Tweed, or within five Miles of any Parish, Town or Place, wherein he or they have, since the Act of Oblivion, been Parson, Vicar, Curate, Stipendiary or Lecturer, or taken upon them to preach in any unlawful Assembly, Conventicle or Meeting, under Colour or Pretence of any Exercise of Religion, contrary to the Laws and Statutes of this Kingdom, before he or they have taken and subscribed the Oath aforesaid before the Justices of the Peace at their Quarter Sessions, to be holden for the County, Riding or Division, next unto the said Corporation, City or Borough, Place or Town, in open Court, (which said Oath the said Justices are hereby impowered there to administer) upon Forfeiture for every such Offence the Sum of forty Pounds of lawful English Money, the one third Part thereof to his Majesty and his Successors, the other third Part to the Use of the Poor of the Parish where the Offence shall be committed, and the other third Part thereof to such Person or Persons as shall or will sue for the same by any Action of Debt, Plaint, Bill or Information, in any Court of Record at Westminster, or before any Justice of Assize,

‘ Oyer and Terminer, or Goal-Delivery, or before any Justices of the
 ‘ County Palatine of Chester, Lancaster, Durham, or the Justices of
 ‘ the Great Sessions, wherein no Essoin, Protection or Wager of Law
 ‘ shall be allowed.

‘ 4. **Provided** always, and be it farther enacted by the Authority
 ‘ aforesaid, That it shall not be lawful for any Person or Persons
 ‘ restrained from coming to any City, Town Corporate, Borough,
 ‘ Parish, Town or Place, as aforesaid, or for any other Person or
 ‘ Persons as shall not first take and subscribe the said Oath, and as
 ‘ shall not frequent divine Service established by the Laws of this
 ‘ Kingdom, and carry him or herself reverently, decently and orderly
 ‘ there, to teach any publick or private School, or take any Boarders
 ‘ or Tablers that are instructed by himself or any other, upon pain
 ‘ for every such Offence to forfeit the Sum of forty Pounds, to be
 ‘ recovered and distributed as aforesaid.

‘ 5. **Provided** always, and be it farther enacted by the Authority
 ‘ aforesaid, That it shall be lawful for any two Justices of the Peace
 ‘ of the respective County, upon Oath to them of any Offence against
 ‘ this Act, (which Oath they are hereby impowered to administer) to
 ‘ commit the Offender for six Months without Bail or Mainprize,
 ‘ unless upon or before such Commitment he shall before the said
 ‘ Justices of the Peace, swear and subscribe the aforesaid Oath and
 ‘ Declaration.

‘ 6. **Provided** always, That if any Person intended to be restrained
 ‘ by Virtue of this Act, shall, without Fraud or Covin, be served with
 ‘ any Writ, Subpœna, Warrant or other Process, whereby his personal
 ‘ Appearance is required, his Obedience to such Writ, Subpœna or
 ‘ Process, shall not be construed an Offence against this Act.

‘ II. *An A C T to prevent and suppress seditious
 ‘ Conventicles.*

‘ 1. **F**OR providing farther and more speedy Remedies against the
 ‘ growing and dangerous Practices of seditious Sectaries and
 ‘ other disloyal Persons, who, under Pretence of tender Consciences,
 ‘ do at their Meetings contrive Insurrections, as late Experience hath
 ‘ shewn: Be it **Enacted** by the King’s Most Excellent Majesty, by and
 ‘ with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal,
 ‘ and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the
 ‘ Authority of the same, That if any Person of the Age of sixteen Years
 ‘ or upwards, being a Subject of this Realm, at any Time after the tenth
 ‘ Day of May next, shall be present at any Assembly, Conventicle or
 ‘ Meeting, under Colour or Pretence of any Exercise of Religion, in
 ‘ other Manner than according to the Liturgy and Practice of the
 ‘ Church of England, in any Place within the Kingdom of England,
 ‘ Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick upon Tweed; at which
 ‘ Conventicle, Meeting or Assembly, there shall be five Persons or
 ‘ more assembled together over and besides those of the same
 ‘ Household, if it be in a House where there is a Family inhabiting,
 ‘ or if it be in a Field, House or Place, where there is no Family
 ‘ inhabiting;

inhabiting; then where any five Persons, or more, are so assembled as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful to and for any one or more Justices of the Peace of the County, Limit, Division, Corporation or Liberty, wherein the Offence aforesaid shall be committed, or for the Chief Magistrate of the Place where the Offence aforesaid shall be committed, and he and they are hereby required and enjoined upon Proof to him or them respectively made of such Offence, either by Confession of the Party, or Oath of two Witnesses, (which Oath the said Justice and Justices of the Peace, and Chief Magistrate, respectively, are hereby impowered and required to administer) or by notorious Evidence and Circumstance of the Fact, to make a Record of every such Offence under his or their Hands and Seals respectively, which Record so made as aforesaid, shall to all Intents and Purposes, be in Law taken and adjudged to be a full and perfect Conviction of every such Offender for such Offence: And thereupon the said Justice, Justices, and Chief Magistrate, respectively, shall impose on every such Offender so convicted as aforesaid, a Fine of five Shillings for such first Offence, which Record or Conviction shall be certified by the said Justice, Justices, or Chief Magistrate, at the next Quarterly-Sessions of the Peace for the County or Place where such Offence was committed.

2. And be it farther **enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That if such Offender so convicted as aforesaid, shall at any Time again commit the like Offence, or Offences, contrary to this Act, and be thereof in Manner aforesaid convicted; then such Offender so convicted of such like Offence or Offences, shall for every such Offence incur the Penalty of ten Shillings, which Fine and Fines for the first and every other Offence, shall be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, or in case of the Poverty of such Offender, upon the Goods and Chattels of any other Person or Persons, who shall be then convicted in Manner aforesaid of the like Offence at the same Conventicle, at the Discretion of the said Justice, Justices, or Chief Magistrate, respectively, so as the Sum to be levied on any one Person, in case of the Poverty of other Offenders, amount not in the whole to above the Sum of ten Pounds, upon the Occasion of any one Meeting as aforesaid: And every Constable, Headborough, Tithingman, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor respectively, are hereby authorized and required to levy the same accordingly, having first received a Warrant under the Hands and Seals of the said Justice, Justices, or Chief Magistrate, respectively so to do: The said Monies so to be levied, to be forthwith delivered to the same Justice, Justices, or Chief Magistrate, and by him or them to be distributed, the one third Part thereof to the Use of the King's Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, to be paid to the High-Sheriff of the County for the Time being, in Manner following, *that is to say*, the Justice or Justices of the Peace shall pay the same into the Court of the respective Quarter-Sessions, which said Court shall deliver the same to the Sheriffs, and make a Memorial or Record of the Payment and Delivery thereof, which said Memorial shall be a final and sufficient Discharge to the said Justice and Justices,

‘ Justices, and a Charge to the Sheriff, which Charge and Discharge
‘ shall be certified into the Exchequer together, and not one without
‘ the other ; and no Justice shall or may be questioned or accountable
‘ for the same in the Exchequer, or elsewhere than in Quarter-
‘ Sessions ; another third Part to and for the Use of the Poor of the
‘ Parish where such Offence shall be committed, and the other third
‘ Part thereof to the Informer and Informers, and to such Person and
‘ Persons as the said Justice, Justices, or Chief Magistrate, respectively,
‘ shall appoint, having Regard to their Diligence and Industry in the
‘ Discovery, dispersing and punishing of the said Conventicles.

‘ 3. And be it farther **Enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That
‘ every Person who shall take upon him to preach or teach in any such
‘ Meeting, Assembly or Conventicle, and shall thereof be convicted as
‘ aforesaid, shall forfeit for every such Offence the Sum of twenty
‘ Pounds, to be levied upon his Goods and Chattels in Manner afore-
‘ said : And if the said Preacher or Teacher so convicted be a Stranger,
‘ and his Name and Habitation not known, or is fled and cannot be
‘ found, or in the Judgment of the Justice, or Justices, or Chief
‘ Magistrate, before whom he shall be convicted, shall be thought
‘ unable to pay the same, the said Justice, Justices, or Chief Magi-
‘ strate, respectively, are hereby impowered and required to levy the
‘ same, by Warrant as aforesaid, upon the Goods and Chattels of any
‘ such Persons who shall be present at the same Conventicle ; any
‘ Thing in this or any other Act, Law or Statute, to the contrary not-
‘ withstanding : And the Money so levied to be disposed of in Manner
‘ aforesaid. And if such Offender so convicted as aforesaid, shall at
‘ any Time again commit the like Offence or Offences contrary to
‘ this Act, and be thereof convicted in Manner aforesaid, then such
‘ Offender so convicted of such like Offence or Offences, shall for
‘ every such Offence incur the Penalty of forty Pounds, to be levied
‘ and disposed as aforesaid.

‘ 4. And be it farther **Enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That
‘ every Person who shall wittingly and willingly suffer any such Con-
‘ venticle, Meeting, or unlawful Assembly, as aforesaid, to be held in
‘ his or her House, Out-house, Barn, Yard or Backside, and be con-
‘ victed thereof in Manner aforesaid, shall forfeit the Sum of twenty
‘ Pounds, to be levied in Manner aforesaid upon his or her Goods and
‘ Chattels, or in case of his or her Poverty or Inability as aforesaid,
‘ upon the Goods and Chattels of such Persons who shall be convicted
‘ in Manner aforesaid, of being present at the same Conventicle, and
‘ the Money so levied, to be disposed of in Manner aforesaid.

‘ 5. **Provided** always, and be it **Enacted** by the Authority afore-
‘ said, That no Person shall by any Clause of this Act, be liable to
‘ pay above ten Pounds for any one Meeting, in Regard of the Poverty
‘ of any other Person or Persons.

‘ 6. **Provided** also, and be it farther **Enacted**, That in all Cases
‘ of this Act, where the Penalty or Sum charged upon any Offender
‘ exceeds the Sum of ten Shillings, and such Offender shall find him-
‘ self aggrieved, it shall and may be lawful for him within one Week
‘ after the said Penalty or Money charged, shall be paid or levied, to
‘ appeal

‘ appeal in Writing from the Person or Persons convicting, to the
 ‘ Judgment of the Justices of the Peace in their next Quarter-Sessions,
 ‘ to whom the Justice or Justices of the Peace, Chief Magistrate, or
 ‘ Alderman, that first convicted such Offender, shall return the Money
 ‘ levied upon the Appellant, and shall certify under his and their
 ‘ Hands and Seals, the Evidence upon which the Conviction passed,
 ‘ with the whole Record thereof and the said Appeal; whereupon
 ‘ such Offender may plead and make Defence, and have his Trial by
 ‘ a Jury thereupon; and in case such Appellant shall not prosecute
 ‘ with Effect, or if upon such Trial he shall not be acquitted, or
 ‘ Judgment pass not for him upon his said Appeal, the said Justices
 ‘ at the Sessions shall give treble Costs against such Offender for his
 ‘ unjust Appeal: And no other Court whatsoever shall intermeddle
 ‘ with any Cause or Causes of Appeal upon this Act, but they shall be
 ‘ finally determined in the Quarter-Sessions only.

‘ 7. **Provided** always, and be it farther **enacted**, That upon the
 ‘ Delivery of such Appeal, the Person or Persons Appellant shall enter,
 ‘ before the Person or Persons convicting, a Recognizance to pro-
 ‘ secute the said Appeal with Effect, which said Recognizance the
 ‘ Person or Persons so convicting is hereby impowered to take, and
 ‘ required to certify the same to the next Quarter-Sessions, and in case
 ‘ no such Recognizance be entred into, the said Appeal to be null
 ‘ and void.

‘ 8. **Provided** always, That such Appeal shall be left with the
 ‘ Person or Persons so convicting, at the Time of the making thereof.

‘ 9. And be it **enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That the Justice,
 ‘ Justices of the Peace, and Chief Magistrate, respectively, or the
 ‘ respective Constables, Headboroughs, and Tithingmen, by Warrant
 ‘ from the said Justice, Justices, or Chief Magistrate, respectively, shall
 ‘ and may with what Aid, Force and Assistance, they shall think fit,
 ‘ for the better Execution of this Act, after Refusal or Denial to enter,
 ‘ break open and enter into any House, or other Place, where they
 ‘ shall be informed any such Conventicle as aforesaid is or shall be
 ‘ held, as well within Liberties as without, and take into their
 ‘ Custody the Persons there unlawfully assembled, to the Intent they
 ‘ may be proceeded against according to this Act: And that the
 ‘ Lieutenants, or Deputy-Lieutenants, or any commissioned Officer
 ‘ of the *Militia*, or other of his Majesty’s Forces, with such Troops
 ‘ or Companies of Horse and Foot, and also the Sheriffs and other
 ‘ Magistrates and Ministers of Justice, or any of them jointly and
 ‘ severally, within any Counties or Places within this Kingdom of
 ‘ *England*, Dominion of *Wales*, or Town of *Berwick upon Tweed*,
 ‘ with such other Assistance as they shall think meet, or can get in
 ‘ Readiness with the soonest, on Certificate made to them respectively
 ‘ under the Hands and Seals of any one Justice of the Peace, or Chief
 ‘ Magistrate, of his particular Information or Knowledge of such
 ‘ unlawful Meeting or Conventicle, held or to be held in their
 ‘ respective Counties or Places, and that he with such Assistance as he
 ‘ can get together, is not able to suppress and dissolve the same, shall
 ‘ and may, and are hereby required and enjoined to repair unto the

Place where they are so held, or to be held, and by the best Means they can, to dissolve, dissipate, or prevent, all such unlawful Meetings, and take into their Custody such, and so many of the said Persons so unlawfully assembled, as they shall think fit, to the Intent they may be proceeded against according to this Act.

10. **Provided** always, That no Dwelling-house of any Peer of this Realm, where he or his Wife shall then be resident, shall be searched by Virtue of this Act, but by immediate Warrant from his Majesty under his Sign-Manual, or in the Presence of the Lieutenant, or one Deputy-Lieutenant, or two Justices of the Peace, whereof one to be of the *Quorum* of the same County or Riding.

11. And be it farther **Enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Constable, Headborough, Tithingman, Churchwarden, or Overseer of the Poor, who shall know, or be credibly informed, of any such Meetings or Conventicles held within his Precincts, Parishes, or Limits, and shall not give Information thereof to some Justice of the Peace, or Chief Magistrate, and endeavour the Conviction of the Parties according to his Duty, but such Constable, Headborough, or Tithingman, shall wilfully and wittingly omit the Performance of his Duty in the Execution of this Act, and be thereof convicted in Manner aforesaid, he shall forfeit for every such Offence the Sum of five Pounds, to be levied upon his Goods and Chattels, and disposed in Manner aforesaid: And that if any Justice of Peace, or Chief Magistrate, shall wilfully and wittingly omit the Performance of his Duty in the Execution of this Act, he shall forfeit one Hundred Pounds, to be recovered by Action, Suit, Bill, or Plaint, in any of his Majesty's Courts at *Westminster*, wherein no Essoin, Protection, or Wager of Law shall be.

12. And be it farther **Enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person be at any Time sued for putting in Execution any of the Powers contained in this Act, otherwise than upon Appeal allowed by this Act, such Person shall and may plead the general Issue, and give the special Matter in Evidence, and if the Plaintiff be nonsuit, or a Verdict pass for the Defendant, or if the Plaintiff discontinue his Action, or if upon Demurrer, Judgment be given for the Defendant, every such Defendant shall have his full treble Costs.

13. And be it farther **Enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act, and all Clauses therein contained, shall be construed most largely and beneficially for the suppressing of Conventicles, and for the Justification and Encouragement of all Persons to be employed in the Execution thereof: And that no Record, Warrant, or *Mittimus*, to be made by Virtue of this Act, or any Proceedings thereupon, shall be reversed, avoided, or any Ways impeached, by Reason of any Default in Form. And in case any Person offending against this Act, shall be an Inhabitant in any other County or Corporation after the Offence committed, the Justice of Peace, or Chief Magistrate, before he shall be convicted as aforesaid, shall certify the same under his Hand and Seal to any Justice of Peace, or Chief Magistrate, of such other County or Corporation wherein the said Person or Persons are Inhabitants, or are fled into, which

‘ said Justice, or Chief Magistrate, respectively, is hereby authorized
 ‘ and required to levy the Penalty, or Penalties, in this Act men-
 ‘ tioned, upon the Goods and Chattels of such Person or Persons, as
 ‘ fully as the said other Justice of Peace might have done, in Case he
 ‘ or they had been Inhabitants in the Place where the Offence was
 ‘ committed.

‘ 14. **Provided** also, That no Person shall be punished for any
 ‘ Offence against this Act, unless such Offender be prosecuted for the
 ‘ same within three Months after the Offence committed, and that no
 ‘ Person who shall be punished for any Offence by Virtue of this Act,
 ‘ shall be punished for the same Offence by Virtue of any other Act
 ‘ or Law whatsoever.

‘ 15. **Provided**, and be it farther **Enacted** by the Authority
 ‘ aforesaid, That every Alderman of *London*, for the Time being,
 ‘ within the City of *London* and the Liberties thereof, shall have (and
 ‘ they, and every of them, are hereby impowered and required to
 ‘ execute) the same Power and Authority within *London*, and the
 ‘ Liberties thereof, for the examining, convicting, and punishing, of
 ‘ all Offences against this Act, committed within *London* and the
 ‘ Liberties thereof, which any Justice of Peace hath by this Act
 ‘ in any County of *England*, and shall be subject to the same
 ‘ Penalties and Punishments, for not doing that which by this Act
 ‘ is directed to be done, by any Justice of Peace in any County of
 ‘ *England*.

‘ 16. **Provided**, and be it **Enacted** by the Authority aforesaid,
 ‘ That if the Person offending, and convicted as aforesaid, be a *Feme-
 ‘ Covert* cohabiting with her Husband, the Penalties of five Shillings
 ‘ and ten Shillings, so as aforesaid incurred, shall be levied by War-
 ‘ rant as aforesaid, upon the Goods and Chattels of the Husband of
 ‘ such *Feme-Covert*.

‘ 17. **Provided** also, That no Peer of the Realm shall be attached
 ‘ or imprisoned by Virtue or Force of this Act; any Thing, Matter,
 ‘ or Clause therein to the contrary notwithstanding.

‘ 18. **Provided** also, That neither this Act, nor any Thing herein
 ‘ contained, shall extend to invalidate, or make void his Majesty’s
 ‘ Supremacy in Ecclesiastical Affairs: But that his Majesty, and his
 ‘ Heirs and Successors, may from Time to Time, and at all Times
 ‘ hereafter, exercise and employ all Powers and Authority in Eccle-
 ‘ siastical Affairs, as fully and amply as himself or any of his Prede-
 ‘ cessors have, or might have done the same; any Thing in this Act
 ‘ notwithstanding.

*This Act was forthwith put into a rigorous Execution, and many
 hungry Informers made it their Business to live upon the Spoil and Ruin
 of conscientious People: But after some Time a Stop was put to their
 Proceedings by King Charles the Second’s Declaration for suspending the
 Penal Laws in Matters Ecclesiastical, intituled, His MAJESTY’S
 DECLARATION to all his loving Subjects; dated the 15th of March,
 1671-2: Published by the Advice of his Privy-Council. The Effect of
 which was as follows, viz.*

‘ OUR

OUR Care and Endeavours for the Preservation of the Rites and Interest of the *Church* have been sufficiently manifested to the World, by the whole Course of our Government since our happy Restoration, and by the many and frequent Ways of *Coercion* that we have used for reducing all erring and dissenting Persons, and for composing the unhappy Differences in Matters of Religion, which we found among our Subjects upon our Return.

But it being evident, by the sad Experience of *twelve Years*, that there is *very little Fruit of all these forcible Methods*; we think ourselves obliged to make Use of that supreme Power in Ecclesiastical Matters, which is not only inherent in us, but hath been declared and recognized to be so by several Statutes and Acts of Parliament.

And therefore we do now accordingly issue this our *Declaration*, as well for the quieting the Minds of our good Subjects in these Points, as for inviting Strangers at this Time to come and live under us, and for the better Encouragement of all to a cheerful following of their Trades, from whence we hope (by the Blessing of God) to have many good and happy Advantages to our Government.

And in the *first Place* we declare our express Resolution, Meaning and Intention to be, that the Church of *England* be preserved and remain intire in its Doctrine, Discipline and Government, as now it stands established by Law, &c.

We do in the *next Place* declare our Will and Pleasure to be, that the Execution of all, and all Manner of Penal Laws in Matters Ecclesiastical, against whatsoever Sort of Non-Conformists or Recusants, be immediately suspended, and they are hereby suspended; and all Judges, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, &c. are to take Notice of it, and pay due Obedience thereunto.

And we do declare, That we shall from Time to Time allow a sufficient Number of Places, as they shall be desired in all Parts of this our Kingdom, for the Use of such as do not conform to the Church of *England*, to meet and assemble in, in order to their publick Worship and Devotion, which Places shall be open and free to all Persons.

To prevent such Disorders and Inconveniencies as may happen by this our Indulgence, if not duly regulated, and that they may be the better protected by the Civil Magistrate, our express Will and Pleasure is, That none of our Subjects do presume to meet in any Place, until the same be allowed, and the Teacher of that Congregation be approved by us.

And we do farther declare, That this our Indulgence as to the Allowance of publick Places of Worship, and Approbation of Teachers, shall extend to all Sorts of Non-Conformists and Recusants, except the Recusants of the *Roman-Catholick* Religion, to whom we shall in no wise allow publick Places of Worship, but only indulge them their Share in the common Exemption from the Execution of Penal Laws, and the Exercise of their Worship in their private Houses only.

And if, after this our Clemency and Indulgence, any of our Subjects shall presume to abuse this Liberty, and preach seditiously, &c.

we

we will let them see we can be as severe to such Offenders, as we are indulgent to truly tender Consciences.

Divers good Effects followed the publishing of this Declaration, viz.

- 1st. *The Stop put thereby to Informers and Persecutors for a Time.*
- 2d. *The quiet and peaceable Enjoyment of their religious Meetings.*
- 3d. *The Preservation of their Goods from Rapine and Spoil by Informers and other Persecutors.*

4th. *The King's Discharge and Deliverance of above four Hundred of the People called Quakers out of Prison by his Letters Patent, or Pardon, under the Great Seal, remitting their Fines, and releasing their Estates forfeited to him by Judgment of Premunire, &c. some of whom had endured ten or eleven Years Imprisonment.*

But this Calm continued not long, for in the Year 1673 the Parliament observing, that upon such Suspension of the Penal Laws, the Papists, against whom divers of those Laws were made, began to get into publick Offices of Trust, grew uneasy, and represented their Dislike of it to the King, alledging that he thereby extended his Prerogative beyond the Boundaries of Law, which might be of dangerous Consequence: Whereupon the King was moved to recall and vacate that Declaration. The Informers after this returned to their old Employment, and many Prosecutions upon the Conventicle-Act quickly followed, as appears in the following Accounts through the several Counties in England and Wales. Many also of the People called Quakers were again prosecuted upon old Statutes against Recusants, and committed to Prison: But we do not find that any new Law was made in England to prohibit the Meetings of Dissenters after the Act against Conventicles in 1670.

Beside the rigorous Execution of the aforesaid Penal Laws against this People, the Ecclesiastical Courts, being upon the Restoration of King Charles the Second, restored to their former Authority and Jurisdiction, ceased not to worry them by frequent Prosecutions for Tithes, Oblations, and other Church Claims, as also for their Non-attendance at the usual Places of Parochial Worship; for these Causes, and for pretended Contempts of the Discipline and Censures of the Church, which indeed the Quakers considering as originally derived from the Papal Power, paid little Regard unto, Multitudes of them were excommunicated, and by Writs de Excommunicato capiendo shut up, and as it were buried alive in Prisons and Dungeons, where many of them, after long Confinement, drew their last Breath, and laid down their Lives, as true Protestant Martyrs, sacrificed to the Influence of Church Power, which in many Instances is to this Day exerted, in Opposition to that perfect Christian Freedom and Liberty of Conscience, which in Matters of Faith and Religion ought to be enjoyed.

During the Continuance under so rigorous a Persecution here in England, the popular Prejudice against them spread itself also into foreign Countries, especially the English Plantations in America, where Falshood and Calumny had anticipated their Arrival, and prepossessed the Minds of those in Authority against them: Hence it came to pass that in New-England a Set of fiery Zealots, who, through Impatience under Sufferings from the Bishops in Old-England, had fled from thence, being invested with Power, and placed at the Helm of Government, exceeded

all others in their Cruelty towards this People, the Barbarity of whose Reception soon after their first Arrival there, is well described in a summary Account thereof drawn up by some of the Sufferers, and presented to King Charles the Second after his Restoration, by Edward Burroughs, being as follows, viz.

A Declaration of some Part of the SUFFERINGS of the People of GOD in Scorn called QUAKERS, from the Professors in New-England, only for the Exercise of their Consciences to the LORD, and obeying and confessing to the Truth, as in his Light he had discovered it to them.

1. **T**WO honest and innocent Women stripped stark naked, and searched after such an inhuman Manner, as Modesty will not permit particularly to mention.

2. Twelve Strangers in that Country, but free-born of this Nation, received Twenty Three Whippings, the most of them being with a Whip of Three Cords with Knots at the Ends, and laid on with as much Strength as could be by the Arm of their Executioner, the Stripes amounting to Three Hundred and Seventy.

3. Eighteen Inhabitants of the Country, being free-born English, received Twenty Three Whippings, the Stripes amounting to Two Hundred and Fifty.

4. Sixty Four Imprisonments of the Lord's People, for their Obedience to his Will, amounting to Five Hundred and Nineteen Weeks, much of it being very cold Weather; and the Inhabitants kept in Prison in Harvest-time, which was very much to their Loss; besides many more imprisoned, of which Time we cannot give a just Account.

5. Two beaten with Pitched Ropes, the Blows amounting to an Hundred and Thirty Nine, by which one of them was brought near unto Death, much of his Body being beaten like unto a Jelly, and one of their Doctors, a Member of their Church, who saw him, said, *It would be a Miracle if ever he recovered, he expecting the Flesh should rot off the Bones*, who afterwards was banished upon pain of Death. There are many Witnesses of this there.

6. Also an Innocent Man, an Inhabitant of Boston, they banished from his Wife and Children, and put to seek an Habitation in the Winter, and in Case he returned again, he was to be kept Prisoner during his Life, and for returning again he was put in Prison, and hath been now a Prisoner above a Year.

7. Twenty Five Banishments upon the Penalties of being whipt, or having their Ears cut, or branded in the Hand, if they returned.

8. Fines laid upon the Inhabitants for meeting together, and edifying one another, as the Saints ever did; and for refusing to swear, it being contrary to Christ's Command, amounting to about a Thousand Pounds, beside what they have done since that we have not heard of, many Families, in which there are many Children, are almost ruined by their unmerciful Proceedings.

9. Five

9. Five kept Fifteen Days in all, without Food, and Fifty Eight Days shut up close by the Goaler, and had none that he knew of; and from some of them he stopt up the Windows, hindring them from convenient Air.

10. One laid Neck and Heels in Irons for Sixteen Hours.

11. One very deeply burnt in the Right Hand with the Letter [H] after he had been whipt with above Thirty Stripes.

12. One chained to a Log of Wood the most Part of Twenty Days, in an open Prison, in the Winter-time.

13. Five Appeals to England denied at Boston.

14. Three had their Right Ears cut by the Hangman in the Prison, the Door being barred, and not a Friend suffered to be present while it was doing, though some much desired it.

15. One of the Inhabitants of Salem, who since is banished upon Pain of Death, had one Half of his House and Land seized on while he was in Prison, a Month before he knew of it.

16. At a General Court in Boston they made an Order, That those who had not where-withall to answer the Fines that were laid upon them for their Consciences, should be sold for Bondmen and Bondwomen to Barbadoes, Virginia, or any of the English Plantations.

17. Eighteen of the People of God were at several Times banished upon pain of Death; six of them were their own Inhabitants, two of which being very aged People, and well known among their Neighbours to be of honest Conversation, being banished from their Houses and Families, and put upon Travelling and other Hardships, soon ended their Days, whose Death we can do no less than charge upon the Rulers of Boston, they being the Occasion of it.

18. Also Three of the Servants of the Lord they put to Death, all of them for Obedience to the Truth, in the Testimony of it, against the wicked Rulers and Laws at Boston.

19. And since they have banished Four more upon Pain of Death, and Twenty Four of the Inhabitants of Salem were presented, and more Fines called for, and their Goods seized on to the Value of Forty Pounds for meeting together in the Fear of God, and some for refusing to Swear.

These Things, O King! from Time to Time have we patiently suffered, and not for the Transgression of any just or righteous Law, either pertaining to the Worship of God, or the Civil Government of England, but simply and barely for our Consciences to God, of which we can more at large give thee, or whom thou mayst order, a full Account (if thou wilt let us have Admission to thee, who are banished upon Pain of Death, and have had our Ears cut, who are some of us in England attending upon thee) both of the Causes of our Sufferings, and the Manner of their disorderly and illegal Proceedings against us; they began with **Immodesty**, went on in **Inhumanity** and **Cruelty**, and were not satisfied until they had the Blood of Three of the Martyrs of JESUS: Revenge for all which we do not seek, but lay them before thee, considering thou hast been well acquainted with Sufferings, and so mayst the better consider them

‘ them that suffer, and mayst for the future restrain the **Violence** of
 ‘ these **Rulers** of *New-England*, having Power in thy Hands, they
 ‘ being but the Children of the Family of which thou art Chief
 ‘ Ruler, who have in divers their Proceedings *forfeited their Patent*,
 ‘ as upon strict Enquiry in many Particulars will appear.

‘ And this, O King! we are assured of, that in Time to come it
 ‘ will not repent thee, if by a close Rebuke thou stoppest the **Bloody**
 ‘ **Proceedings** of these **Bloody Persecutors**, for in so doing thou
 ‘ wilt engage the Hearts of many honest People unto thee both there
 ‘ and here, and for such Works of Mercy the Blessing is obtained;
 ‘ and shewing it is the Way to prosper: We are Witnesses of these
 ‘ Things, who

‘ Besides many long Imprisonments, and many cruel Whippings, had
 ‘ our Ears cut,

‘ JOHN ROUSE JOHN COPELAND.

‘ Besides many long Imprisonments, divers cruel Whippings, with the
 ‘ seizing on our Goods, are banished upon Pain of Death, and some of
 ‘ us do wait here in *England*, and desire that we may have an Order
 ‘ to return in Peace to our Families,

‘ SAMUEL SHATTOCK

JOSIAH SOUTHICK

‘ NICHOLAS PHELPS

JOSEPH NICHOLSON.

‘ JANE NICHOLSON

This Representation of their Case to the King, with the earnest and incessant Sollicitations of Edward Burroughs, and others, on their Behalf, procured a Mandamus from that MONARCH, by which an effectual Stop was put to the Proceedings in New-England of putting Men to Death for Religion, by which their blind Zeal and Fury would otherwise probably have destroyed many innocent People. Nevertheless they yet continued by cruel Whippings, and other Barbarities, to demonstrate that they repented not of their former Cruelty, but that they were restricted by Force of the KING's Authority, and not from any Alteration in their own Tempers or Inclinations, as will plainly appear by the Narrative of their Proceedings.

In BARBADOES the Laws for settling the Militia were very severe, and as severely executed, for their refusing to appear personally in Arms. A Law was also made to prevent Negroes from coming to any Meetings of the People called Quakers under severe Penalties; of all which the Cases of Sufferings in that Island exhibit a particular Specification.

At NEVIS several Laws were enacted for preventing any Quakers landing there, and several Inhabitants of that Persuasion suffered for their religious Testimony.

At BERMUDAS some were imprisoned, others tied Neck and Heels; some banished, and Elizabeth Carter, an innocent Woman, barbarously used.

At ANTIGUA several suffered Imprisonment, and an Act was made for banishing them. The Steadiness of their Conduct on Occasion of taking that

that Island by the French, is worthy of Observation; and their Patience under sufferings for their religious Testimony, demonstrates their Sincerity therein.

In MARYLAND, though they enjoyed the Liberty of holding their religious Assemblies, yet divers Instances occur of their sufferings for not bearing Arms, and for refusing to Swear.

In JAMAICA, their Refusal to pay towards the established Maintenance of the Priests, as well as their refusing to bear Arms, exposed them to the Penalties of the Laws in both those Cases.

Having in distinct Chapters given an Account of their sufferings in each of the foregoing Places in America, we return to Europe and Asia, giving a Narrative of what befell such of this People as were concerned to travel out of England, into other Parts, for the Advancement of true Religion, and the Benefit of the Souls of others: Here we shall find George Robinson, a young Man, in his Travels to Jerusalem, preserved through many imminent Dangers, and defended by the Authority of the Turks from the Malice and Treachery of Friars, whose Superstition he had boldly testified against: Also Mary Fisher, a religious Maiden, travelling to Smyrna, whence being sent back to Venice, she went by Land from the Sea-Coast of Morea to Adrianople, where she delivered a Message to the Sultan Mahomet the Fourth, who favourably received and heard her, and dismissed her with Testimonies of his Esteem: Her remarkable Preservation in that long and tedious Journey is an Argument of the Truth of her Mission, and of the Providence of God protecting her in the Performance of her Duty, and in yielding Obedience to his Requirings.

The Travels of several of this People to Rome, publickly and freely testifying there against the Popish Superstition, were attended with the utmost Hazard of their Lives, and their Deliverance and safe Return from thence very remarkable.

The Death of George Bayley in Prison in France, and the sufferings of Christopher Birkhead at Middleburgh in Zealand, and of William Ames and Martin Martinson at Rotterdam, are worthy of Observation; as was also the Banishment of William Caton from Middleburgh, and his hard Usage on Shipboard.

The sufferings of Katharine Evans and Sarah Chevers, English Women, in the Inquisition at Malta, are of an extraordinary Nature, and are a convincing Evidence of the Constancy and Patience wherewith they were endued, and enabled to abide faithful in the Midst of so great Trials and Tribulations. The Letters they wrote during their Confinement, exhibit a Specimen of that excellent Christian Spirit by which they were conducted and preserved in the Time of their Afflictions, and are well worthy the Perusal of religious Readers.

The manifold Trials, Jeopardies and Torments, which John Philly and William Moore underwent in Hungary and Austria, are exemplary Proofs of their Meekness and Patience, and of an unshaken Constancy in the Faith by them professed.

In the Account of their sufferings at Dantzick, Embden, Hamburgh, the Palatinate and United-Provinces, several Papers and Letters are interspersed, in perusing which, the Readers may find both Pleasure and

Instruction : Of this Kind are, (1st.) A Letter of Christian Andreas, a Citizen of Dantzick, to John Claus of Amsterdam. (2d.) A Christian Expostulation with the Magistrates of Dantzick and Schidlith, written by William Gibson. (3d.) A Letter written by William Penn to the King of Poland. (4th.) A Letter of William Penn to the Council and Senate of Embden. (5th.) An Answer from the People called Quakers at Amsterdam, to some Proposals made them by the Burghers and Senate of Embden. (6th.) A Letter from William Caton in Germany, to his Friends at London. In all which the innocent Cause of their Sufferings is justly represented, and the Practice of Persecution for Religion deservedly reprov'd.

We have also collected such Sufferings of this People in Ireland as have come to our Hands, and have closed this present Collection with their Sufferings in that Part of Great-Britain called Scotland, wherein are many Passages worthy of Observation.

At London, in the Year 1680, while the Persecutors of the People called Quakers were very busy in prosecuting them upon the Conventicle-Act, and also upon old Statutes made against Popish Recusants, unjustly insinuating their Assemblies to be seditious Conventicles, and very dangerous to the Peace of the Government ; a Discovery was made to the Parliament of a Popish Plot, which by the House of Commons in their Address to the King, dated the 29th of November 1680, was stiled, A damnable and hellish Plot, by the good Providence of God brought to light, and the Contrivers thereof were termed A Popish Party, who have not only plotted and intended the Destruction of your Majesty's royal Person, but the total Subversion of the Government and true Religion established among us. Upon the Discovery of the said Plot, and the Impeachment and Condemnation of William Lord Viscount Stafford for the same, the Parliament assumed the Consideration of Ways and Means to increase the Protestant Interest. And the House of Commons in their Votes of the 10th of January 1680, published this Resolution, viz. RESOLVED, That it is the Opinion of this House, that the Prosecution of Protestant Dissenters upon the Penal Laws, is at this Time grievous to the Subject, a weakening of the Protestant Interest, an Encouragement to Popery, and dangerous to the Peace of this Kingdom. And had accordingly under their Deliberation, A Bill for exempting Protestant Dissenters from the Penal Laws. A Committee was also appointed to enquire into the Case of the Quakers Sufferings by those Laws, and an Inclination was apparent in the House of Commons for their Relief at that Time, when the King, by dissolving that Parliament, prevented the intended Issue of their Consultations ; and the Prosecutions against this People were renewed with a fresh Vigour ; for Informers, like Beasts of Prey, were lurking about in most Parts of the Nation, and were encouraged by many of the Clergy and Magistracy : Several of the Priests also turned Informers, and personally assisted in disturbing religious Meetings, and promoting the Ruin of their conscientious Neighbours. Now though those Informers, generally for the Sake of their own Part of the Spoil, sought more after Fines and Distresses, than the Imprisonment of Men's Persons ; yet many of them were shut up in Prison, as appears by the following Petition, viz.

To

To the KING,

The Humble PETITION of above a Thousand Prisoners, commonly called QUAKERS,

SHewETH,

THAT our renewed Hardships, our continued and increasing Imprisonments, do occasion this our humble Complaint and Request, of which we intreat the King's favourable Acceptance and tender Resentments. We do solemnly declare, that we know no other Cause for our *strait Confinements* and *hard Usage*, than what concerns our tender Consciences in serving and worshipping Almighty God that made us, being well known to be Persons of quiet Conversations and peaceable Behaviour, and clear in the Sight of God of all seditious Contrivances, Plots and Conspiracies, and are not evilly affected towards the King's Person or Government. Howbeit several Goals are filled, without Regard to Sex, Age, or Condition, not only to the impairing our Healths, but endangering many of our Lives, many having already died Prisoners, the greatest Part of late committed for our peaceable religious Meetings, many of us under Fines on that Account, and upon the Act of 13 & 14 Car. 2. Cap. 1. extending also to Banishment. In some Goals many of us crouded in nasty Holes, and mixt among Felons, many under Sentence of *Premunire*, not for refusing Fidelity or Allegiance to the King, but only not Swearing the same for Conscience-sake. Many under Sentence of Excommunication committed on Writs *de Excom. cap. &c.* for *Non-conformity*, &c. and have undergone long and tedious Imprisonments. By which Confinements and Hardships many innocent and industrious Families are left destitute and in Distress, many honest Tradesmen, Husbandmen, and Farmers, greatly discouraged and spoiled in their Trades and Livelihoods, and many poor Families depending on them for Employment, now for lack thereof exposed to great Want and Penury: Besides the Violence and woful Spoil made upon many, both in City and Country, by Informers, Prosecutions, &c. and for twenty Pounds a Month, and Two-thirds of Estates seized into the King's Hands, &c. which will unavoidably force many to shut up Shops, and leave off their Trades and Farms, &c. (as some have done already) if not timely relieved.

We therefore who are concerned in the Sufferings aforesaid, do in all *Christian Humility* request, that the King in his Princely Compassion will please to take our distressed Case into his tender Consideration, and afford us Relief from these Hardships and Imprisonments, as he hath * formerly done for many of our suffering Friends, which we do thankfully acknowledge, we being sincerely designed by the Grace of God to live peaceably and inoffensively under the King and his Government. Wherefore, according as our Conversations are found concurring with this our solemn Profession,

* This refers to the King's *Letters Patent* for releasing of the *Quakers* in general, in 1672 before mentioned.

‘ we humbly crave Liberty, that we may provide for our distressed
 ‘ Families, and be capable to *render to Cæsar those Things that be*
 ‘ *Cæsar’s, and to God the Things that are God’s*, according to our
 ‘ *Christian Principle and Persuasion.*

*An Address was also presented to King Charles the Second (and by
 him accepted) at Windsor Castle, on the 8th of the Month called August
 1683, by George Whitehead, Alexander Parker, Gilbert Latey, and
 Francis Camfield, which was distinctly read to the King and the Duke
 of York, in the Presence of many of the Nobility, by George Whitehead,
 being as follows, viz.*

‘ *To the K I N G,*

‘ *The Humble ADDRESS of the People commonly called QUAKERS.*

‘ O K I N G !

‘ **T** H E K I N G of Kings and L O R D of the whole Earth incline
 ‘ thine Heart to that which is just and merciful in his Sight,
 ‘ and to make such clean and equal Distinctions, as that the Innocent
 ‘ may not suffer in any Case for the Guilty, that it may ever redound
 ‘ to thy Honour and Safety, and thy peaceable Subjects Comfort.

‘ Our Innocency, Love and Goodwill to thy Person, and the
 ‘ Government that God has committed to thee, encourage us in this
 ‘ our humble Address and Application.

‘ Whereas the late Plot against the King and his Brother the Duke
 ‘ of York, &c. is made an Occasion to persecute many of us for our
 ‘ religious Meetings more severely than formerly,

‘ We do solemnly declare, that it is known to the Divine Majesty
 ‘ and the all-seeing Wisdom, whereby Kings reign, and Princes decree
 ‘ Justice, that our manifold, extreme and continued Sufferings, being
 ‘ only on a religious Account, have not been the least Motive or
 ‘ Provocation to us to desire, much less to contrive, the least Hurt
 ‘ either to thy Person or Government, or to the Person of thy
 ‘ Brother the Duke of York, &c. We are clear in the Sight of God,
 ‘ Angels and Men, from all hellish Plots and traiterous Conspiracies,
 ‘ and from all murderous Designs and Undertakings, against the
 ‘ King, his Brother, or any Person on Earth whatsoever, being
 ‘ Works of the Devil and Darkness, having contrariwise learned of
 ‘ Christ Jesus our Lord, by his Light and Grace in our Hearts, not so
 ‘ much as by Force to defend, much less to avenge ourselves from
 ‘ Injuries done us, but to commit our Cause to him that judgeth
 ‘ righteously, as peaceable Followers of our Saviour and Redeemer in
 ‘ his patient Example and Sufferings, who is the Prince of Peace.

‘ O King ! we do farther declare, that God Almighty hath taught
 ‘ and engaged us to acknowledge, and actually to obey, Magistracy
 ‘ (as his Ordinance) in all Things not repugnant to his Law and
 ‘ Light in our Consciences, which is certainly agreeable to the Holy
 ‘ Scriptures, and admits not of any immoral or injurious Action :
 ‘ And that even where through tender Conscience we cannot con-
 ‘ form, it is our Duty patiently to suffer, and not to rebel nor seek
 ‘ Revenge. And we hope by his divine Grace ever to demean ourselves

‘ as

as peaceable-minded *Christians* in our Conversations under the Civil-Government : And as we do sincerely, and with Reverence, confess to the divine Power and Providence in thy *Restoration*, and the Preservation of thy Person hitherto, so our Prayers and Supplications are to the Almighty for thy future Safety and Peace, and that in a thankful Remembrance of God's great Mercies towards thee, thou mayst be obliged to shew *Mercy*, and to relieve the Oppressed from these unmerited Afflictions and Persecutions, which a great Number of us, thy peaceable Subjects, do even at this Day suffer in our Persons and Estates, not only by Laws made against, but also by Laws never made against us ; and which is more extreme, divers Severities of late have been, and still are inflicted, for which no Colour or Pretence hath been or can be alledged, several Goals being so filled as that they want Air, and many innocent Persons are held under extreme *Distress* without Regard to Age, Sex, or Condition, to the Loss of some Lives already, and apparent Hazard of many more, if not to the endangering Infection in divers Cities and Places in this Nation ; and many Houses, Shops, Barns, and Fields are ransackt, and swept of Goods, Corn, and Cattle, tending also to the great Discouragement of Trade and Husbandry, and to the Impoverishing of a great Number of quiet and industrious People, and that for no other Cause but their religious Worship, and the Exercise of their tender Consciences toward Almighty God that made them, who is the Sovereign Lord of all, and King in Men's Consciences.

Therefore we humbly intreat thee, O King ! in Princely Justice, *Christian* Charity, and Compassion, to open our Prison-doors, and take off our Bonds, relieve the Innocent and Oppressed in thy Land, that fear God, and in Conversation truly honour the King, and suffer not the Ruin of such as are quiet in the Land, nor the Widow and the Fatherless for their peaceable Consciences, to lie at the Door of a Prince professing the tender and compassionate Religion of Christ.

But notwithstanding all these Representations of their Case from Time to Time, and the Hopes sometimes raised of Relief from the favourable Reception some of them met with in their personal Applications to King Charles the Second ; yet the Persecution complained of continued to the End of his Reign in 1684.

Upon the Accession of King James the Second to the Throne, they repeated their Application for Relief, and on the 3d Day of the First Month called March 1684-5, the following Petition and Case, with an Account of the Number of Prisoners annexed, were presented to the King by George Whitehead, Alexander Parker, and Gilbert Latey, viz.

To King JAMES the Second, &c.

The Humble APPLICATION of the People called QUAKERS.

WHEREAS it hath pleased Almighty God (by whom Kings reign) to take hence the late King *Charles the Second*, and to preserve thee peaceably to succeed ; we thy Subjects heartily

‘ desire, that the *Giver of all good and perfect Gifts* may please to
 ‘ endue thee with Wisdom and Mercy, in the Use of thy great Power,
 ‘ to his Glory, the King’s Honour, and the Kingdom’s Good.

‘ And it being our sincere Resolution, according to our peaceable
 ‘ Principles and Conversation, (by the Assistance of Almighty God)
 ‘ to live peaceably and honestly, as becomes true and faithful Subjects
 ‘ under the King’s Government, and a conscientious People that truly
 ‘ serve and fear God: We do humbly hope, that the King’s Tender-
 ‘ ness will appear and extend with his Power to express the same,
 ‘ recommending to his Princely Clemency the Case of our present
 ‘ suffering Friends hereninto annexed.

‘ *To the K I N G,*

‘ *The Distressed CASE and REQUEST of the Suffering People*
 ‘ *commonly called QUAKERS, humbly presented;*

‘ S H E W I N G,

‘ **T**HAT according to Accounts lately given, above *fourteen*
 ‘ *Hundred* of the said People (both Men and Women) are con-
 ‘ tinued Prisoners in *England and Wales*, only for tender Consciences
 ‘ towards Almighty God that made them: Many under Sentence of
 ‘ *Premunire*, and many near it, not for refusing the Duty or Sub-
 ‘ stance of Allegiance itself, but only because they *dare not Swear*:
 ‘ Others under Fines on the *Act for Banishment*: Many on *Writs*
 ‘ of *Excommunication*: Besides some Hundreds have died Prisoners,
 ‘ many by Means of this long Imprisonment since the Year 1680, (as
 ‘ it is judged) thereby making Widows and Fatherless, and leaving
 ‘ poor innocent Families desolate in Distress and Sorrow.

‘ These two hard Winters Confinement tending also to the De-
 ‘ struction of many in cold Holes and Goals, their Healths being
 ‘ greatly impaired thereby: Besides the Violence and open Spoil made
 ‘ by merciless Informers on the *Conventicle-Act*, upon many con-
 ‘ victed, *unsummoned* and *unheard* in their own Defence, both in City
 ‘ and Country, as also on *Qui tam* Writs, and other Proceffes for
 ‘ twenty Pounds a Month, and Two-thirds of Estates seized for the
 ‘ King: All tending to the Ruin of Trade and Husbandry, and
 ‘ industrious Families; to some not a Bed left, to others no Cattle to
 ‘ till their Ground or give them Milk, nor Corn for Bread nor Seed,
 ‘ nor Tools to work withall: And all these and other Severities done
 ‘ under Pretence of *serving the King and the Church*, thereby to force
 ‘ us to violate our Consciences, and consequently to destroy our Souls,
 ‘ which we are very tender of, as we are of our Peace with God, and
 ‘ our own Consciences, though accounted as Sheep for the Slaughter.
 ‘ And notwithstanding all these long sustained Extremities, we the said
 ‘ People do solemnly profess and declare in the Sight of the Heart-
 ‘ searcher, that we have nothing but Goodwill and true Affection to
 ‘ the King. We have never been found in any seditious or treasonable
 ‘ Designs,

Designs, as being wholly contrary to our Christian Principles and holy Profession.

And knowing *where the Word of a King is, there is Power*, we in Christian Humility, and for Christ's Sake, intreat that the King will please to find out some Expedient for our Relief in these Cases, from Prisons, Spoil and Ruin.

And we shall, as in Christian Duty bound, pray God for the King's Welfare in this World, and his Eternal Happiness in that which is to come.

LONDON, the 2d of the First Month
called March 1684-5.

An Account of the Number of the said Prisoners called Quakers in the several Counties, viz.

BEDFORDSHIRE	30	Brought up	622
BERKSHIRE	37	LEICESTERSHIRE	37
BRISTOL	103	LINCOLNSHIRE	12
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	19	LONDON and MIDDLESEX	66
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	8	NORFOLK	52
CHESHIRE	9	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	59
CORNWALL	32	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	6
CUMBERLAND	22	OXON	17
DERBYSHIRE	11	SALOP	18
DEVONSHIRE	104	SOMERSETSHIRE	36
DORSETSHIRE	13	SOUTHAMPTONSHIRE	15
DURHAM	39	STAFFORDSHIRE	1
ELY	11	SUFFOLK	79
ESSEX	10	SURRY	29
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	66	SUSSEX	17
HARTFORDSHIRE	18	WALES	30
HEREFORDSHIRE	1	WARWICKSHIRE	31
HUNTINGDONSHIRE	10	WESTMORLAND	5
KENT	16	WILTSHIRE	34
LANCASHIRE	73	WORCESTERSHIRE	15
		YORKSHIRE	279
Carried up	622	Total	1460

Not long after was also presented,
To the KING and both Houses of PARLIAMENT,
The Suffering Condition of the People called QUAKERS, only for tender Conscience towards ALMIGHTY GOD, humbly presented;

SHEWING,
THAT of late above one Thousand five Hundred of the said People (both Men and Women) having been detained Prisoners in England, and Part of them in Wales, some of them being since discharged

discharged by the Judges, and others freed by Death through their long and tedious Imprisonment. There are now remaining, according to late Accounts, about *one Thousand three Hundred eighty and three*, above *two Hundred* of them Women: Many under Sentence of *Premunire*, (both Men and Women) and more than *three Hundred* near it, not for denying the Duty, or refusing the Substance of Allegiance itself, but only because they *dare not Swear*: Many on Writs of *Excommunication*, and Fines for the King, and upon the Act for Banishment. Besides above *three Hundred and twenty* have died in Prison, and Prisoners, since the Year 1660, near *one Hundred* whereof by Means of this long Imprisonment (as it is judged) since the last Account delivered to the King and Parliament in 1680, thereby making Widows and Fatherless, and leaving them in Distress and Sorrow. The two last hard Winters Restraint, and the Confinement of great Numbers in divers Goals, unavoidably tending towards their Destruction, their Healths being evidently impaired thereby.

And here in *London* the Goal of *Newgate* hath been from Time to Time crouded within these two Years (sometimes near twenty in one Room) to the Prejudice of their Health, and several poor innocent Tradesmen of late have been so suffocated by the Closeness of the Prison, that they have been taken out sick of a malignant *Fever*, and died in a few Days after.

Besides these long continued and destructive Hardships upon the Persons of Men and Women as aforesaid, *great Violence*, *outrageous Destruction*, and *woful Havock* and *Spoil*, have been made, and are frequently made upon our Goods and Estates, both in and about this City of *London*, and other Parts of this Nation, by a Company of idle, extravagant, and merciless Informers, and their Prosecutions upon the *Conventicle-Act*, many being convicted and fined, *unsummoned* and *unheard* in their own Defence: As also on *Qui tam* Writs, at the Suit of Informers (who prosecute for one third Part for themselves) and on other Processes for twenty Pounds a Month, and Two-thirds of Estates seized for the King: All tending to the Ruin of Trade, Husbandry, and Farmers, and the impoverishing of many industrious Families, without Compassion shewn to Widows, Fatherless, or Desolate; to some not a Bed left to rest upon, to others no Cattle to till their Ground, nor Corn for Bread or Seed, nor Tools to work withall. The said Informers and Sheriff's Bayliffs in some Places, being outrageous and excessive in their Seizures and Distresses, breaking into Houses, and making great Waste and Spoil. And all these and other Severities done against us by them, under Pretence of *serving the King and the Church*, thereby to force us to a Conformity, without inward Conviction or Satisfaction of our tender Consciences, wherein our Peace with God is concerned, which we are very tender of.

The Statutes on which we the said People suffer Imprisonment, Distress and Spoil, are as followeth,
The 5th of *Eliz.* Chap. 23. *de Excommunicato capiendo.*

The

' The 23d of *Eliz.* Chap. 1. for *twenty Pounds a Month.*
 ' The 29th of *Eliz.* Chap. 6. for *Continuation.*
 ' The 35th of *Eliz.* Chap. 1. for *abjuring the Realm on pain*
 ' *of Death.*
 ' The 1st of *Eliz.* Chap. 2. for *Twelve-pence a Sunday.*
 ' The 3d of King *James the First*, Chap. 4. for *Premunire,*
 ' *Imprisonment during Life, and Estates confiscated.*
 ' The 13th and 14th of King *Charles the Second*, against *Quakers,*
 ' &c. *Transportation.*
 ' The 22d of King *Charles the Second*, Chap. 2. against *sedition*
 ' *Conventicles.*
 ' The 17th of King *Charles the Second*, Chap. 2. against *Non-*
 ' *Conformists.*
 ' The 27th of King *Henry the Eighth*, Chap. 20. some few suffer
 ' thereupon.
 ' Upon Indictments at *Common Law*, pretended and framed against
 ' our peaceable religious Assemblies, for *Riots, Routs, Breach of the*
 ' *Peace, &c.* Many (both Men and Women) thereupon fined, im-
 ' prisoned, and detained for Non-payment, some till Death : Instance
 ' the City of *Bristol*, where a great Number have been these divers
 ' Years straitly confined and crouded in Goal, mostly above *one Hun-*
 ' *dred* on such Pretence, about *seventy* of them Women, many aged.
 ' And in the City of *Norwich*, in the Year 1682 and 83, about
 ' *seventy* kept in hold, *forty five* whereof in Holes and Dungeons for
 ' many Weeks together, and great Hardships have been, and are, in
 ' other Places. So that such our peaceable Meetings are sometimes
 ' fined in the *Conventicle-Act* as for a religious Exercise, and other
 ' Fines at *Common Law*, as *riotous, routous, &c.* when nothing of that
 ' Nature could ever be proved against them, there being nothing of
 ' *Violence or Injury* either done or threatned, or intended, against the
 ' Person or Property of any other whatsoever.
 ' The during and tedious Imprisonments are chiefly on the Writs
 ' *de Excommunicato capiendo*, upon the Judgment of *Premunire*, and
 ' upon Fines said to be for the King. The great Spoil and excessive
 ' Distresses and Seizures are chiefly upon the *Conventicle-Act*, and for
 ' *twenty Pounds a Month*, and *Two-thirds of Estates*, and on *Qui tam*
 ' Writs. In some Counties divers have suffered by Seizures and Dis-
 ' tresses above eight Years last past, and Writs lately issued out for
 ' farther Seizures in several Counties for twenty Pounds a Month,
 ' amounting to the Value of *many Thousand Pounds*, sometimes seizing
 ' for *eleven Months* at once, and making Sale of all Goods and Chattels
 ' within Doors and without, both of *Household Goods, Beds, Shop Goods,*
 ' *Moveables, Cattle, &c.* and Prosecution hereupon still continued,
 ' and in divers Counties much increased : So that several who have
 ' long employed some Hundreds of poor Families in Manufacture,
 ' and paid considerable Taxes to the King, are greatly disabled from
 ' both by these Writs and Seizures, as well as by long Imprisonments.
 ' So many Serge-makers of *Plymouth*, as kept above five Hundred poor
 ' People at Work, disabled by Imprisonment : Many in the County
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of *Suffolk*, under a long Imprisonment, sentenced to a *Premunire*;
 one whereof employed at least two Hundred poor People in the
 Woollen Manufacture, when at Liberty. Omitting other Instances,
 that we may not seem too tedious, these may evince how destructive
 such Severities are to Trade and Industry, and ruinous to many poor
 Families. On the *Conventicle-Act*, within these two Years last past,
 many in and about this City of *London*, have been extremely op-
 pressed, impaired, and spoiled in their Estates and Trades, upon
 numerous Convictions and Warrants made against them in their
 Absence, upon the Credit of Informations sworn by concealed In-
 formers, divers of them *impudent Women*, who swear for their Profit
 in Part of the Fines and Seizures, their Husbands being Prisoners for
 Debt, through their own Extravagancies. The Warrants commonly
 made to break open and enter Houses, which is done with Rigour
 and great Spoil, not sparing Widows, Fatherless, or poor Families,
 who are sustained by their daily Care and Industry, not leaving them
 a Bed to rest upon. The Fines upon one Justice's Warrants amount-
 ing to many Hundreds of Pounds, frequently ten Pounds a Warrant,
 and two Warrants at once for twenty Pounds executed upon one
 Person, and three Warrants at once from another Justice for sixty
 Pounds upon another Person, and all his Goods carried away in
 about ten Cart-loads, and five Warrants at once for fifty Pounds upon
 another, &c. besides what we have suffered by others in the like
 Kind. And in this destructive Course the Informers have Encourage-
 ment, and are suffered still to go on, to the ruining many Families
 in their Trades and Livelihoods; divers so discouraged and disabled,
 that they are forced to give over their Shops and Trades.

These Informers being accepted for credible Witnesses, yet Parties,
 swearing for their own Profit and Gain in the Absence of the Per-
 sons prosecuted. This we think is very hard, and undue Proceedings,
 and not consistent with Common Law and Justice. As also con-
 victing and fining us upon their Depositions, *unsummoned* and
unheard in our own Defence, and so keeping us ignorant of our
 Accusers, unless upon Traverse of our Appeals. This Procedure ap-
 pears contrary to the Law of God, common Justice and Equity, and
 to the Law and Justice of the ancient *Romans*, and of Nations.

And although it hath been openly manifested upon Trial of
 Appeals at several Quarter-Sessions, both for *Middlesex* and *London*,
 and other Places, that the Deposition of divers Informers have been
 false in Fact, yet the great Trouble and Charge in the Traverse of
 Appeals, and the great Encouragement Informers have from him
 who grants the most Warrants, hath been a Discouragement to
 many from seeking such difficult Remedy, considering also the
 treble Costs against the Appellant, in Case he succeeds not, or is not
 acquitted upon Trial; whereas there is no Costs or Restitution
 awarded or given against the Informers for unjust Prosecutions.
 Some also having refused to grant Appeals, others denied Copies of
 Warrants to prevent Appeals; which whether this be equal or just,
 pray consider ye that are wise and judicious Men. And whether it

be

Deut. xix.

17, 18.

John vii. 51.

Prov. xxvi. 2.

Job xxix. 16.

17.

Gen. iii. 8.

Judges xix.

30.

Acts xxv. 5, 7,

8, 10, 16.

‘ be for the King’s Honour and the People’s Interest, that idle,
‘ drunken, extravagant Informers, should either be encouraged, or
‘ suffered to go on thus to ruin Trade, Husbandry and Families, or to
‘ command and threaten Justices of the Peace, with the Forfeiture of
‘ an Hundred Pounds if they do not make Convictions, and issue
‘ Warrants, upon their bare Informations, and uncertain Depositions,
‘ frequently in the Absence of the Accused.

‘ And, *lastly*, one third Part of the Fines being assigned to the
‘ King, he can only remit that; but the Informers and Poor being
‘ assigned two third Parts, seems not to allow him to remit them,
‘ how much Cause soever may appear to him to extend his Favour in
‘ that Case: Is not this against the King’s Prerogative, to restrain his
‘ Sovereign Clemency? And how far it reflects upon the Government,
‘ and is scandalous thereto, for *beggarly rude Informers* (some of them
‘ confident Women) not only to command, threaten and disquiet
‘ Justices, Peace-Officers, &c. but to destroy the King’s honest, in-
‘ dustrious and peaceable Subjects in their Properties and Estates, is
‘ worthy of your serious Considerations? And whether the said *Con-*
‘ *venticle-Act* ought not therefore justly to be repealed? A noted
‘ Instance of the like Case we have concerning the Statute of the 11th
‘ of *Henry the Seventh*, Chap. 3. (for determining certain Offences,
‘ and Contempts upon Informers Prosecutions) being repealed in the
‘ first Year of King *Henry the Eighth*, Chap. 6. though that in some
‘ Respects was more tolerable than this.

‘ Be pleased to make our Case your own, and *do to us as you would be*
‘ *done unto*. As you would not be oppressed or destroyed in your Per-
‘ sons or Estates, nor have your Properties invaded, and Posterities
‘ ruined, for serving and worshipping Almighty God (that made all
‘ Mankind) according to your Perswasions and Consciences, but would
‘ no doubt enjoy the Liberty thereof: So we intreat you to allow the
‘ same Liberty to tender Consciences, that live peaceably under the
‘ Government, as you would enjoy yourselves; and to disannull the
‘ said *Conventicle-Act*, and to stop these devouring Informers, and also
‘ take away all *Sanguinary Laws*, *corporal* and *pecuniary Punishments*
‘ merely on the Score of Religion and Conscience, and let not the
‘ Ruin and Cry of the Widow, Fatherless, and innocent Families, lie
‘ upon this Nation, nor at your Door, who have not only a great
‘ Trust reposed in you for the Prosperity and Good of the whole
‘ Nation, but also do profess *Christianity*, and the tender Religion
‘ of our Lord Jesus Christ.

‘ And notwithstanding all these long sustained Extremities, we the
‘ said suffering People do solemnly profess and declare in the Sight of
‘ the all-seeing God, who is the Searcher of Hearts, that as we have
‘ never been found in any seditious or treasonable Designs (they being
‘ wholly contrary to our *Christian Principle* and Profession) so we
‘ have nothing but good Will and true *Christian Affection* to the King
‘ and Government, sincerely desiring his and your Safety, Prosperity
‘ and Concurrence in Mercy and Truth, for the Good of the whole
‘ Kingdom.

‘ Having

‘ Having thus given you in short the general State of our *suffering*
 ‘ *Case*, in Matter of Fact, without personal Reflection, we in *Christian*
 ‘ Humility, and for Christ’s Sake, intreat, that you will tenderly and
 ‘ charitably consider of the Premises, and find out some effectual
 ‘ Expedient or Way for our Relief from Prisons, Spoil and Ruin.’

Upon these and other Applications to King James, and presenting to him a List of the Names of some Hundreds of Persons under Prosecution in the Exchequer, &c, the King being moved for a Noli Prosequi, or Stay of Process, was pleased to give Direction to the Lord Treasurer and Attorney General, that no more Exchequer Writs might be issued out against the Quakers on Occasion of their Absence from the National Worship. Upon which the following Petition was presented,

‘ To LAURENCE *Earl of Rochester, Lord Treasurer*
 ‘ *of England* ;

‘ The Humble PETITION of us whose Names are hereunder
 ‘ subscribed, on Behalf of the Persons called QUAKERS, named in the
 ‘ List hereunto annexed ;

‘ S H E W E T H,
 ‘ T H A T in Pursuance to the King’s Reference made to his
 ‘ Attorney General, he among other Things did, on the 20th
 ‘ Day of *January* last 1685, make his Report, that the Persons named
 ‘ in the List hereunto annexed, are convicted for their Monthly Ab-
 ‘ sence from Church, and are returned into the Exchequer, and in
 ‘ Charge there for their twenty Pounds per Month.

‘ That upon the reading of the said Report, the King was graciously
 ‘ pleased to signify his Royal Pleasure amongst other Things, that
 ‘ Process might be forthwith stayed from issuing out of the Exchequer
 ‘ against the said Persons named in the said List.

‘ That it now remains under the Consideration of the Attorney
 ‘ General, to direct or prepare fit Instruments to discharge the Pro-
 ‘ ceedings, as well against the Persons named in the said List, as all
 ‘ others mentioned in the said Report.

‘ That forasmuch as Process is now likely to issue forth out of the
 ‘ Exchequer against the Persons named in the said List, before the
 ‘ Attorney General can direct or prepare fit Instruments to be made
 ‘ for Relief of the Persons in the said Report, according to the King’s
 ‘ Will and Pleasure,

‘ May it therefore please the said Lord Treasurer in the mean
 ‘ Time, to issue forth his Warrants to the Clerk of the Pipe, for
 ‘ staying of Process against the Persons named in the said List,
 ‘ until their Discharge can be effectually completed in Pursuance
 ‘ of the King’s said gracious Will and Pleasure.

‘ *And the said Petitioners shall, &c.*

The

The said Lord Treasurer accordingly issued his Warrant as follows, viz.

A Copy of the LORD TREASURER'S Warrant to the Clerk of the Pipe, to forbear making forth any Process against the Persons mentioned in the said List, viz.

AFTER my hearty Commendations, these are to authorize and direct you, to forbear making out any Process against any of the Persons mentioned in these four Sheets of Paper hereto annexed, each Sheet being subscribed by myself, and the three first Sheets having four Columns of Names, the fourth only two, till the next Term. And if any Processes are already made forth, you are immediately to supersede the same: And for so doing this shall be your Warrant.

To my very loving Friend the Clerk of the Pipe, or his Deputy.

Whitehall, Treasury-Chamber,

March 4th 1685.

ROCHESTER.

The Stay of Proceedings in the Exchequer thus obtained, prevented the Ruin of some Hundreds of Sufferers in the respective Cities and Counties.

The King was also pleased upon farther Application to him, to grant a Commission for enquiring into the Conduct of the Informers about London, which upon Enquiry was found attended with so much false Swearing, Injustice and Illegality, that upon Signification of the King's Pleasure therein, the Informers were discountenanced, both by the Justices, and at the Quarter-Sessions in London and Middlesex, and their Course gradually stopt in other Parts of the Kingdom. At length, on the 4th of the Month called April 1687, came forth the King's Declaration for Liberty of Conscience, and for the immediate Suspension of all and all Manner of penal Laws in Matters Ecclesiastical, for not coming to Church, or for any other Non-conformity to the Religion established.

By that Declaration present Ease and Relief to Protestant Dissenters ensued, so that they could generally hold their religious Meetings undisturbed. But as that Declaration was lookt upon, even by many of those who received a present Benefit from it, as an Extent of the King's Prerogative beyond it's due Bounds, and which had not the Sanction of any Act of Parliament, the Liberty thereby granted was at most but precarious and uncertain.

In the following Year, viz. 1688, it pleased Almighty God, to whom only the Intentions and Designs of Princes are foreseen and foreknown, in the Course of his Providence, to remove the said King James the Second from the Government of these Nations, and to place upon the Throne King William the Third, and his Consort Queen Mary, for whose truly Protestant Reign was reserved the Glory of establishing to Protestant Dissenters a general Liberty of Conscience in religious Worship, which was done in the first Year of their Reign by an Act of Parliament, intituled,

*An ACT for exempting their MAJESTIES
Protestant Subjects, dissenting from the Church
of England, from the Penalties of certain Laws.*

FORASMUCH as some Ease to scrupulous Consciences
in the Exercise of Religion, may be an effectual Means to unite
their Majesties Protestant Subjects in Interest and Affection :
Be it Enacted by the King and Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by
and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal,
and the Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the
Authority of the same, That neither the Statute made in the three
and twentieth Year of the Reign of the late Queen *Elizabeth*,
intituled, *An ACT to retain the Queen's Majesty's Subjects in their due
Obedience*; nor the Statute made in the twenty ninth Year of the
said Queen, intituled, *An ACT for the more speedy and due Execution
of certain Branches of the Statute made in the three and twentieth Year
of the Queen's Majesty's Reign*, (viz. the aforesaid Act;) nor that
Branch or Clause of a Statute made in the first Year of the Reign of
the said Queen, intituled, *An ACT for the Uniformity of Common-
prayer and Service in the Church, and Administration of the Sacra-
ments*, whereby all Persons having no lawful nor reasonable Excuse
to be absent, are required to resort to their Parish-Church or Chapel,
or some usual Place where the Common-prayer shall be used, upon
pain of Punishment by the Censures of the Church, and also upon
pain that every Person so offending, shall forfeit for every such
Offence Twelve-pence. Nor the Statute made in the third Year of
the Reign of the late King *James the First*, intituled, *An ACT for
the better discovering and suppressing Popish Recusants*; nor that other
Statute made in the same Year, intituled, *An ACT to prevent and
avoid Dangers which may grow by Popish Recusants*; nor any other
Law or Statute of this Realm made against *Papists* or *Popish Recu-
sants*, except the Statute made in the five and thirtieth Year of King
Charles the Second, intituled, *An ACT for the more effectually preserv-
ing the King's Person and Government, by disabling Papists from sitting
in either House of Parliament*, shall be construed to extend to any
Person or Persons dissenting from the Church of *England*, that shall
take the Oaths mentioned in a Statute made this present Parliament,
intituled, *An ACT for removing and preventing of all Questions and
Disputes concerning the Assembling and Sitting of this present Parlia-
ment*, and shall make and subscribe the Declaration mentioned in a
Statute made in the thirtieth Year of the Reign of King *Charles the
Second*, intituled, *An ACT to prevent Papists from sitting in either
House of Parliament*: Which Oaths and Declarations the Justices of
the Peace, at the General Sessions of the Peace, to be held for the
County or Place where such Person shall live, are hereby required to
render and administer to such Persons as shall offer themselves to
make and subscribe the same, and thereof shall keep a Register; and
likewise none of the Persons aforesaid, shall give or pay as any Fee
or

or Reward to any Officer or Officers belonging to the Court aforesaid, above the Sum of Six-pence, nor that more than once, for his or their Entry of his taking the said Oaths, and making and subscribing the said Declaration; nor above the farther Sum of Six-pence for any Certificate of the same, to be made out and signed by the Officer or Officers of the said Court.

And be it **Enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Person or Persons already convicted, or prosecuted in order to Conviction of Recusancy by Indictment, Information, Act of Debt, or otherwise grounded upon the aforesaid Statutes, or any of them, that shall take the said Oaths mentioned in the said Statute made this present Parliament, and make and subscribe the Declaration aforesaid in the Court of Exchequer, or Assizes, or General or Quarter-Sessions, to be held for the County where such Person lives, and to be thence respectively certified into the Exchequer, shall be thenceforth exempted and discharged from all the Penalties, Seizures, Forfeitures, Judgments, and Executions incurred by Force of any of the aforesaid Statutes, without any Composition, Fee, or farther Charge whatsoever.

And be it farther **Enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Person and Persons, that shall as aforesaid take the said Oaths, and make and subscribe the Declaration aforesaid, shall not be liable to any Pains, Penalties or Forfeitures, as mentioned in an Act made in the five and thirtieth Year of the Reign of the late Queen Elizabeth, intituled, *An Act to retain the Queen's Majesty's Subjects in their due Obedience*; nor to an Act made in the two and twentieth Year of the Reign of the late King Charles the Second, intituled, *An Act to suppress and prevent seditious Conventicles*; nor shall any of the said Persons be prosecuted in any Ecclesiastical Court, for or by Reason of their Non-conformity to the Church of England.

Provided always, and be it **Enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Assembly of Persons dissenting from the Church of England, shall be had in any Place for religious Worship with the Doors locked, barred or bolted, during any Time of such meeting together, all and every Person or Persons, that shall come to or be at such Meeting, shall not receive any Benefit from this Law, but be liable to all the Pains and Penalties of all the aforesaid Laws, recited in this Act, for such their Meeting, notwithstanding his taking the Oaths, and his making and subscribing the Declaration aforesaid.

Provided always, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to exempt any of the Persons aforesaid from paying of Tithe, or other Parochial Duties, or any other Duties to the Church or Minister, nor from any Prosecution in any Ecclesiastical Court or elsewhere for the same.

And be it farther **Enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person dissenting from the Church of England as aforesaid, shall hereafter be chosen, or otherwise appointed, to bear the Office of High-Constable, or Petty-Constable, Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor,

' Poor, or any other Parochial or Ward-Office, and such Person shall
 ' scruple to take upon him any of the said Offices in regard of the
 ' Oath, or any other Matter or Thing required by the Law to be
 ' taken or done in respect of such Office, every such Person shall and
 ' may execute such Office or Employment by a sufficient Deputy, by
 ' him to be provided, that shall comply with the Laws on this Behalf.
 ' **Provided** always, The said Deputy be allowed and approved by
 ' such Person or Persons, in such Manner as such Officer or Officers
 ' respectively, should by Law have been allowed and approved.
 ' And be it farther **enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That no
 ' Person dissenting from the Church of *England* in holy Orders, or
 ' pretending to holy Orders, nor any Preacher or Teacher of dissenting
 ' *Protestants*, that shall make and subscribe the Declaration aforesaid,
 ' and take the said Oaths at the General or Quarter-Sessions of the
 ' Peace, to be held for the County, Town, Parts or Division, where
 ' such Person lives, which Court is hereby impowered to administer
 ' the same, and shall also declare his Approbation of, and subscribe
 ' the Articles of Religion mentioned in the Statute made in the
 ' thirtieth Year of the Reign of the late Queen *Elizabeth*, except
 ' the thirty fourth, thirty fifth and thirty sixth, and these Words of
 ' the twentieth Article, *viz. [The Church hath Power to decree Rites*
 ' *or Ceremonies, and Authority in Controversies of Faith, and yet]* shall
 ' be liable to any of the Pains and Penalties mentioned in an Act made
 ' in the seventeenth Year of King *Charles the Second*, intituled, *An*
 ' *Act for restraining Non-conformists from inhabiting in Corpora-*
 ' *tions*; nor the Penalties mentioned in the aforesaid Act made in the
 ' two and twentieth Year of his said late Majesty's Reign, for or by
 ' Reason of such Persons preaching at any Meeting for the Exercise
 ' of Religion; nor to the Penalties of one Hundred Pounds mentioned
 ' in an Act made in the 13th and 14th of King *Charles the Second*,
 ' intituled, *An Act for the Uniformity of publick Prayers and Admini-*
 ' *stration of the Sacraments, and other Rites and Ceremonies; and for*
 ' *establisshing the Form of making, ordaining and consecrating of Bishops,*
 ' *Priests and Deacons, in the Church of England, for officiating in any*
 ' *Congregation for the Exercise of Religion permitted and allowed by*
 ' *this Act.*
 ' **Provided** always, That the making and subscribing the said
 ' Declaration, and the taking the said Oaths, and making the De-
 ' claration of Approbation, and Subscription to the said Articles in
 ' Manner as aforesaid, by every respective Person or Persons herein
 ' before mentioned, at such General or Quarter-Sessions of the Peace
 ' as aforesaid, shall be then and there entred of Record in the said
 ' Court, for which Six-pence shall be paid to the Clerk of the Peace,
 ' and no more.
 ' **Provided** that such Person shall not at any Time preach in any
 ' Place but with the Doors not locked, barred or bolted, as aforesaid.
 ' And **whereas** some dissenting *Protestants* scruple the baptizing of
 ' Infants, Be it **enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That every
 ' Person in pretended holy Orders, or pretending to holy Orders, or
 ' Preacher,

‘ Preacher or Teacher, that shall subscribe the aforesaid Articles of Religion, except before excepted, and also except Part of the twenty seventh Article touching Infant-Baptism, and shall take the said Oaths, and make and subscribe the Declaration aforesaid, in Manner aforesaid, every such Person shall enjoy all the Privileges, Benefits and Advantages, which any other dissenting Minister as aforesaid, might have or enjoy by Virtue of this Act.

‘ And be it farther **Enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That every Teacher or Preacher in holy Orders, or pretended holy Orders, that is a Minister, Preacher or Teacher of a Congregation, that shall take the Oaths herein required, and make and subscribe the Declaration aforesaid, and also subscribe such of the aforesaid Articles of the Church of *England* as are required by this Act in Manner aforesaid, every such Person shall enjoy all the Privileges, Benefits and Advantages, which any other dissenting Minister as aforesaid, might have or enjoy by Virtue of this Act.

‘ And be it farther **enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That every Teacher or Preacher in holy Orders, or pretended holy Orders, that is a Minister, Preacher or Teacher of a Congregation, that shall take the Oaths herein required, and make and subscribe the Declaration aforesaid, and also subscribe such of the aforesaid Articles of the Church of *England* as are required by this Act in Manner aforesaid, shall be thenceforth exempted from serving upon any Jury, or from being chosen or appointed to bear the Office of Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor, or any other Parochial or Ward Office, or other Office in any Hundred of any Shire, City, Town, Parish, Division or Wapentake.

‘ And be it farther **Enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That every Justice of the Peace may at any Time hereafter, require any Person that goes to any Meeting for Exercise of Religion, to make and subscribe the Declaration aforesaid, and also to take the said Oaths or Declaration of Fidelity herein after mentioned, in Case such Person scruples the taking of an Oath, and upon Refusal thereof, such Justice of the Peace is hereby required to commit such Person to Prison without Bail or Mainprize, and to certify the Name of such Person to the next General Quarter-Sessions of the Peace to be held for that County, City, Town, Part or Division, where such Person then resides; and if such Person so committed, shall upon a second Tender at the General or Quarter-Sessions, refuse to make and subscribe the Declaration aforesaid, such Person refusing shall be then and there recorded, and he shall be taken thenceforth to all Intents and Purposes for a *Popish* Recusant Convict, and suffer accordingly, and incurr all the Penalties and Forfeitures of all the aforesaid Laws.

‘ And **whereas** there are certain other Persons, Dissenters from the Church of *England*, who scruple the taking of any Oath; Be it **Enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That every such Person shall make and subscribe the aforesaid Declaration, and also this Declaration of Fidelity following, *viz.*

I A. B. do sincerely promise, and solemnly declare before God and the World, that I will be true and faithful to King William and Queen Mary. And I do solemnly profess and declare, that I do from my Heart abhor, detest and renounce, as impious and Heretical, that damnable Doctrine and Position, that Princes excommunicated or deprived by the Pope, or any Authority of the See of Rome, may be deposed or murdered by their Subjects, or any other whatsoever. And I do declare, that no Foreign Prince, Person, Prelate, State or Potentate, hath or ought to have any Power, Jurisdiction, Superiority, Pre-eminence or Authority, Ecclesiastical or Spiritual, within this Realm.

And shall subscribe a Profession of their Christian Belief in these Words.

I A. B. profess Faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ his Eternal Son the true God, and in the Holy Spirit, one God blessed for evermore: And do acknowledge the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine Inspiration.

Which Declarations and Subscriptions shall be made and entred upon Record at the General Quarter-Sessions of the Peace for the County, City or Place where every such Person shall then reside. And every such Person that shall make and subscribe the two Declarations and Profession aforesaid, being thereunto required, shall be exempted from all the Pains and Penalties of all and every the afore-mentioned Statutes made against Popish Recusants or Protestant Non-Conformists, and also from the Penalties of an Act made in the fifth Year of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, intituled, An ACT for the Assurance of the Queen's Royal Power over all Estates and Subjects within her Dominions, for or by Reason of such Persons not taking or refusing to take the Oath mentioned in the said Act, And also from the Penalties of an Act made in the thirteenth and fourteenth Years of the Reign of King Charles the Second, intituled, An ACT to prevent Mischiefs that may arise by certain Persons called Quakers refusing to take lawful Oaths; and enjoy all other the Benefits, Privileges and Advantages under the like Limitations, Provisoos and Conditions, which any other Dissenters shall or ought to enjoy by Virtue of this Act.

Provided always, and be it **enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That in case any Person shall refuse to take the said Oaths when tendred to them, which every Justice of Peace is hereby empowered to do, such Person shall not be admitted to make and subscribe the two Declarations aforesaid, though required thereunto, either before any Justice of the Peace, or at the General Quarter-Sessions, before or after any Conviction of Popish Recusancy as aforesaid, unless such Person can within thirty one Days after such Tender of the Declarations to him, produce two sufficient Protestant Witnesses to testify upon Oath, that they believe him to be a Protestant Dissenter, or a Certificate under the Hands of four Protestants who are conformable to the Church of England, or have taken the Oaths, and subscribed the Declaration above mentioned, and shall also produce a Certificate under

under the Hands and Seals of six or more sufficient Men of the Congregation to which he belongs, owning him for one of them.

Provided also, and be it **enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That until such Certificate under the Hands of six of his Congregation as aforesaid be produced, and two *Protestant* Witnesses come to attest his being a *Protestant* Dissenter, or a Certificate under the Hands of four *Protestants* as aforesaid be produced, the Justice of the Peace shall, and is hereby required to take a Recognizance, with two Sureties in the penal Sum of fifty Pounds, to be levied of his Goods and Chattels, Lands and Tenements, to the Use of the King's and Queen's Majesties, their Heirs and Successors, for his producing the same; and if he cannot give such Security, to commit him to Prison, there to remain until he has produced such Certificates or two Witnesses as aforesaid.

Provided always, and it is the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, That all the Laws made and provided for the frequenting of divine Service on the Lord's Day, commonly called *Sunday*, shall be still in full Force, and executed against all Persons that offend against the said Laws; except such Persons come to some Congregation or Assembly allowed or permitted by this Act.

Provided always, and be it farther **enacted**, by the Authority aforesaid, That neither this Act, nor any Clause, Article or Thing herein contained, shall extend or be construed to extend to give any Ease, Benefit or Advantage to any *Papist* or *Popish* Recusant whatsoever, or any Person that shall deny in his Preaching or Writing the Doctrine of the blessed Trinity, as it is declared in the aforesaid Articles of Religion.

Provided always, and be it **enacted** by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons, at any Time or Times after the tenth Day of *June*, do and shall willingly, and of purpose, maliciously, or contemptuously, come into any Cathedral or Parish-Church, Chapel or other Congregation permitted by this Act, and disquiet or disturb the same, or misuse any Preacher or Teacher, such Person or Persons, upon Proof thereof before any Justice of Peace by two or more sufficient Witnesses, shall find two Sureties to be bound by Recognizance in the penal Sum of fifty Pounds, and in Default of such Sureties shall be committed to Prison, there to remain till the next General or Quarter-Sessions; and upon Conviction of the said Offence, at the said General or Quarter-Sessions, shall suffer the Pain and Penalty of twenty Pounds, to the Use of the King's and Queen's Majesties, their Heirs and Successors.

Provided always, That no Congregation, or Assembly for religious Worship, shall be permitted or allowed by this Act, until the Place of such Meeting shall be certified to the Bishop of the Diocese, or to the Archdeacon of that Archdeaconry, or to the Justices of the Peace for the County, City or Place in which such Meeting shall be held, and registered in the said Bishop's or Archdeacon's Court respectively, or recorded at the said General or Quarter-Sessions: The Register or Clerk of the Peace whereof respectively, is hereby required to register the same, and to give Certificate thereof to such Person

Person as shall demand the same, for which there shall be none greater Fee or Reward taken than the Sum of Six-pence.

This Act put an End to the Persecution of Protestant Dissenters in this Nation, for the Exercise of religious Worship, had a natural Tendency to unite Subjects of divers Persuasions in mutual Love and Affection one towards another, and was and is a general Blessing, and exceedingly conducive to the strengthening of the Protestant Interest.

At this happy Period of Time have we thought proper to close this present COLLECTION : To the Publication of which we have been induced by the following Reasons.

1st. *To testify our Regard to the Memory of the SUFFERERS, many of whom we highly esteem for their Christian Courage and Constancy in maintaining the Truths they were persuaded of, and preferring Peace of Conscience to all worldly Considerations.*

2d. *To exhibit to Posterity a Variety of rare and singular Instances of a People remarkable for their Christian Zeal and immoveable Resolution in maintaining their Right of publicly assembling for the Worship of God : An Indication that in those Assemblies they were made Partakers of that solid Comfort and Coelestial Sweetness which attends the true and Evangelical Worship, which they valued above all the Delights, Pleasures and Enjoyments of this World, and which supported and enabled them cheerfully to undergo not only the Spoiling of their Goods, but Imprisonments, Banishments, and even Death itself, for they stood fast in one Spirit with one Mind, striving together for the Truth of the Gospel, and in nothing terrified by their Adversaries : For unto them it was given in the Behalf of CHRIST, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his Sake, Philip. i. 27, 28, 29. May their Constancy stir up those who now freely enjoy what they so dearly purchased, viz. The Liberty of their religious Meetings, to an assiduous Practice of their Duty in that Respect, and to a diligent seeking after that inward Solace and Heavenly Satisfaction of Soul, which refreshes and sustains those who sincerely worship the Father of Spirits, in Spirit and in Truth.*

3d. *That the SUFFERINGS they underwent for their Testimony to the Purity and Spirituality of the Christian Dispensation, their commendable Zeal against the Payment of Tithes, and their earnest Endeavours to preserve the Doctrine of the Gospel free from any undue Mixture, either of Jewish Ceremonies or Heathenish Superstition, may induce others to a serious Consideration of the Importance of that Testimony, and the Nature of those Payments, which they esteemed Antichristian, to search the Scriptures, and to practise agreeably to the Convictions they may receive from such Enquiry. On this Head Trials and Sufferings yet continue and are most lasting, because the Power and Interest of the Priesthood (the principal Source of all Sufferings for Religion) are most nearly concerned therein.*

4th. *That*

4th. *That the Example of their Ancestors may reprove the present Degeneracy of too many, who by Speech and Behaviour proclaim their Declension, from that Plainness and Simplicity in both, which those that went before them conscientiously practised and suffered for, and that being thereby excited to a religious Search into the * Ground and Origin of the Expressions, Habits, Customs, and Salutations of the Times which their Elders so zealously disused, they may discern the Inconsistency of those Things with the Purity of the Christian Religion, and be reclaimed from a mean and cowardly Compliance therein, contemptible even with those they give it to, and which has gradually led some into greater Evils, by associating with such as frequent Sports, Plays, sinful Pastimes and Diversions, till their Delight has centred in that which their Fathers could find no Peace in, and which it is reasonable to think, themselves have sometimes practised with much Regret and Uneasiness of Mind, in vainly attempting to stifle the Checks of that divine Light, which they know would direct them better.*

5th. *That comparing our own Times with the preceding, and the Liberty we now enjoy with the afflicted State of our Predecessors, whose Persons and Properties were made a Prey to the vilest of Men, we may receive the present Blessings with humble and thankful Hearts, duly prizing the Mercies of GOD, and the Favour of the Government under which we live, and earnestly praying that the Throne of the King may be established in Righteousness, that a Spirit of Peace and Charity may diffuse itself through all his Dominions, and unto the Ends of the Earth, to the Completion of that glorious State of the Kingdom of the MESSIAH predicted by the Prophets, wherein The Wolf shall dwell with the Lamb, and the Leopard shall lie down with the Kid, and the Calf and the young Lion and the Fatling together, and a little Child shall lead them; and the Cow and the Bear shall feed, and their young ones shall lie down together; and the Lion shall eat Straw like the Ox, and the sucking Child shall play on the Hole of the Asp, and the weaned Child shall put his Hand upon the Cockatrice Den. When the Earth shall be full of the Knowledge of the LORD as the Waters cover the Sea. When they shall beat their Swords into Plough-shares, and their Spears into Pruning-hooks: When Nation shall not lift up Sword against Nation, neither shall they learn War any more; but they shall sit every Man under his Vine, and under his Fig-Tree, and none shall make them afraid. When all People shall walk every one in the Name of his GOD, and we will walk in the Name of the LORD our GOD for ever.*

*Isaiah xi. 6,
7, 8, 9.*

*Micah iv. 4,
5, 6.*

VOL. I.

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* For their Help in such Enquiry, they are recommended to the Perusal of the fifteenth Proposition of ROBERT BARCLAY'S *Apology*, with his Dissertation thereupon; and also the ninth and tenth Chapters of WILLIAM PENN'S *No Cross, No Crown*.

We think it not improper in this Place, to obviate one of the principal Objections which the Persecutors of this People usually advanced against them, viz. The Singularity of their Sentiments, and that the Testimony they bore, struck against such Points in Religion, as other Protestants before them had not been concerned to oppose. This Objection can have but little Weight with those who shall consider the Reformation from Popery, as a gradual and progressive Work: The first Reformers in England went through the fiery Trial, and many of them sacrificed their Lives in a faithful Testimony against the Idolatry of the Popish Mass, the absurd and irrational Doctrine of Transubstantiation, the Adoration of Images, and other gross Superstitions of the Romish Church. These dark Errors were abolished by Laws of Protestant Princes, and the Papal Power renounced: But the Christian Zeal and Fervour which began this Work, by Degrees languished and waxed cool, to the Retarding of the Reformation, and continuing among the Reformers themselves, many Relicks of the Papal Corruption unremoved. Against these yet remaining Marks of the old Apostacy, the primitive Spirit of Protestantism reviving among the Quakers, constrained them to testify, and enabled them to suffer under Penal Laws, enacted by degenerate Protestants, to prevent any farther Progress of that Reformation which their Forefathers had begun, and which the said People called Quakers have incessantly laboured to carry on, and wherein, such among them, who abide faithful to their first Principles, do yet stedfastly persist, as becometh a Race of true Protestant Reformers, more zealous for the Extirpation of Popery, than any that ever went before them: For after that professed Protestants had assumed to themselves an Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, in some Degree resembling that of Rome, and Protestant Priests had appropriated to themselves the old Popish Maintenance by Tithes, and other such Fees and Perquisites as the Romish Clergy had formerly enjoyed, they prosecuted the conscientious Withholders of their Pay, and spared not to recover it by the same Methods which those of the Church of Rome had done before them. A Multitude of Instances of extreme Rigour and Severity in recovering Church Claims are to be met with in this COLLECTION; the Zeal of the Clergy most remarkably exerting itself against the Obstructors of their Interest, and inducing them to excite the Legislature against them in order to their Extirpation. Hence proceeded Acts for Fining and Banishment, to which the invincible Constancy of this People in publickly assembling for their religious Worship, and their Refusal to Swear in any Case, did continually expose them. Nor was it possible for them to evade the Rigour of the Laws, whose Habit, Speech and Deportment, subjected them to every Man's Notice, and whose open religious Meetings, at certain fixed Times and Places, ministered never-failing Occasions for their Enemies to execute their Malice upon them.

That the following Collection of the SUFFERINGS of this People might be as compleat as the Nature of the Thing would admit, the COMPILER of it has endeavoured, by an industrious Application for many

many Years past, to furnish himself with a competent Knowledge of his Subject; and for that End has had Recourse not only to their own Manuscript Records, wherein is preserved a genuine Account of such of the SUFFERINGS of their Friends as were transmitted to them, but has also consulted a great Number of printed Accounts relative thereto, and which were published at or near the Time of the Transactions related: So that the Reader has here presented to his View, digested in proper Order of Time and Place, a faithful NARRATIVE, not only of what before lay dispersed, but also of many remarkable Matters never heretofore published, which yet were thought well worthy of being rescued from Oblivion, and transmitted to Posterity.

The Matters of Fact, herein related, are attended with all reasonable Evidences of Truth, and many of them are confirmed by correspondent Copies of Letters, Warrants, Mittimus's, Presentments, Indictments, Trials, and other publick Proceedings, inserted in their proper Places through the Course of this COLLECTION.

We make no Apology for the Plainness of our Style; a Composure of this Nature requiring no Embellishments either of Art or Elegance: Wherefore disregarding the Censures of Criticks, this Collection of the SUFFERINGS of a plain, honest, and conscientious People, is recommended to the serious and weighty Consideration of judicious and Christian Enquirers,

By the COMPILER,

Joseph Bessé.

A COLLECTION

A

COLLECTION OF THE SUFFERINGS Of the PEOPLE called QUAKERS.

The INTRODUCTION.

C H A P. I.

*Containing the Principal Causes and Motives of that People's Dissent
from the Forms of Worship established by Law.*

CHAP. I.

Causes of
their Dissent.

THE Testimony of a good Conscience, bearing Witness to the Truth, in Opposition to Opinions and Practices established, under the Name of Religion, by human Laws, and enforced by Penalties, has been the common Cause alledged by all sincere Sufferers, Confessors and Martyrs, for any Branch of Christian Doctrine or Duty required of them to teach or practise, either by the immediate Call and Evidence of the Spirit of God in themselves, or the Testimony of the holy Scriptures always agreeing therewith.

In general.

This GENERAL PLEA, the persecuted People, here treated of, have constantly, and as reasonably as any, insisted on, in Justification of themselves, and of that practical Dissent from Opinions and Customs in Religion, which though generally received, appeared to them inconsistent with the Truth, the Doctrine of which is firm and immutable, and which, though popular Prejudices and human Laws may sometimes contradict, they can never alter.

The principal Points wherein their Conscientious Nonconformity rendered them obnoxious to the Penalties of the Law, were,

Causes of Suffering particularized.

I. Their Refusal to pay Tithes, which they esteemed a Jewish Ceremony abrogated by the Coming of Christ. They also considered, that the Levitical Priesthood, which took Tithes, being changed, a Change also of the Law which enjoined the Payment of them did necessarily follow: And that there being no Precept either of Christ or his Apostles, enjoining them to be paid under the Gospel, his Disciples are totally freed from all Obligation thereunto, and that it was a Christian Duty in them to stand fast in that Liberty wherewith Christ had made them free, and to be no more entangled with the Yoke of Bondage.

1. Refusing to pay Tithes.

II. Their Refusal to pay Rates or Assessments for building and repairing Houses, or Places, appropriated to the Exercise of such a Worship as they did

2. Refusing to pay towards Rates for superstitious Uses.

CHAP. 1. ~~not approve of, the pretended Consecration of which Places, they looked upon as an unwarrantable Superstition; they also considered the said Assessments as applied to many other unscriptural Uses and Impositions, which they could not, with a good Conscience, contribute to the Support and Maintenance of.~~

3. Refusing to Swear.

III. Their constant Obedience to the Precept of Christ, *Swear not at all*, which they would not in any Case transgress: For they did not believe, that any human Law or Power upon Earth could justify them in the known Breach of a positive Command, such as they esteemed that of our Saviour to be in Respect of *Swearing*. In this Point they were acted by an invincible Constancy, and supported steadfast in the Faith, through Bonds, Imprisonments, Banishments, and even Death itself.

4. Not taking off their Hats.

IV. Their Disuse of the Custom of uncovering their Heads, or *pulling off their Hats*, by way of Homage to Men, which they accounted an undue and unscriptural Respect of Persons, and a Misapplication of that outward Signification of Honour and Address which they appropriated to God only. This Custom had not the Sanction of any *written Law*; yet the Omission of it was deemed a Contempt, and frequently punished by Fines and Imprisonment.

5. Meeting publicly to worship God.

V. Their Christian Resolution of assembling publicly for the Worship of God, in such Manner as was most agreeable to their Consciences, from which nothing could deter them; and in which they stood much exposed to the Malice of their Adversaries, who always knew where to find them. In this they manifested an Intrepidity, sometimes astonishing, even to those who came to their Meetings on purpose to molest them.

6. Publishing the Truth to others.

VI. The Necessity many of them found themselves under of publishing the Doctrine of *Truth* which they were persuaded of, and of reprovng Vice and Immorality openly in the Streets and Markets, and sometimes even in the Places appointed for the publick national Worship. From the worst of those whom they so reprovng, they met with ungrateful Returns of manifold and barbarous Abuses, which were too often encouraged by Authority of the Magistrates, who ought to have restrained them.

7. With-holding the Priest's Fees.

VII. Their refusing to make Use of the established Priests or Ministers, either in Marrying, Burying, or any other Case, and conscientiously with-holding the Fees customarily paid on those Occasions. Hence proceeded many Prosecutions against them, especially in the Ecclesiastical Courts, where they generally issued in *Excommunications*, the Consequences of which often were Imprisonments on Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*, during the Pleasure of *holy Church*. By this Means many of this People were *buried alive*, and became Sacrifices to the Interest of domineering *Ecclesiasticks*, in Causes, of which the secular Power never had any Cognizance, but through their Misrepresentations.

8. Their Testimony against Fighting.

VIII. Their Testimony against *Wars* and *Fighting*; the Practice whereof, they judged inconsistent with those Precepts of Christ, *Love your Enemies. Do Good to them that hate you*. Wherefore they refused either to bear Arms themselves, or to hire others in their Stead. This exposed them to Fines, and Seizures of their Goods, and sometimes even to corporal Punishments at the arbitrary Wills of Military Officers.

Proofs of their Sincerity.

These Points of their religious Dissent were to them of very great Weight and Consequence; in the Observance of which, they experienced an inward Peace and Tranquillity of Mind, strengthening and enabling them to persevere in the *Way* of their *Duty*; and indeed their Patience and Constancy in enduring so great a Fight of Afflictions, for the Sake of their religious Testimony, was as cogent and convincing a Demonstration of their Sincerity therein, as can reasonably be expected.

Order of the Work.

Having premised these Things, we proceed to the Work proposed, which, in regard to the suffering Cases in *England* and *Wales*, we have thought proper to place in an alphabetical Order of the several Places and Counties wherein they were transacted, assigning to each Place and County a distinct Chapter. After which will follow a Narrative of the remarkable Sufferings which they underwent in *New-England* and other foreign Countries.

CHAP.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

ANNO 1655.

THE first Instance recorded of Sufferings in this County was in the Month called April, 1665, at Cranfield, where Thomas Stubbs, James Lancaster, and Anthony Patrickson, were taken out of a Friend's House by a Constable, kept all Night under a Guard, and next Day conveyed to Ampthill, where two Justices privately examined them, and sent them to Prison till the Quarter Sessions about fourteen Days after; when, being called in Court, no legal Cause appeared for their Commitment; nevertheless, their coming in with their Hats on was deemed sufficient Cause for their Recommitment to Prison, where they lay about a Month longer, and then were privately discharged at a petty Sessions, without any Notice taken of the Injustice of their Confinement.

Imprisonment
of several.

In the same Year Thomas Stacey, and Mary Mounsell, a Woman of good Repute, and Sister to a Justice of the Peace in that County, were taken out of a religious Meeting at the House of Thomas Scott in Wooburne, by a Constable, and confined under a Guard a Day and a Night, till they were carried before two Justices of the Peace, who after Examination released them.

ANNO 1656.

1656.

Isabel Parlour, for exhorting the People in Ampthill Market to Repentance and Amendment of Life, was sent to Bridewell, with an Order to be whipt, and was detained there about a Month.

Imprisonment
for Preaching,

James Taylor suffered about two Months Imprisonment for refusing to pay Tithes, and for the same Cause several others suffered Distress of their Goods to the Value of 20 l. 7 s. for Demands of 9 l. 8 s. 8 d. for Tithes.

and for
Tithes.

ANNO 1657.

1657.

In the Month of November this Year, William Mather was sent to Prison for not paying Tithes, and detained there two and thirty Weeks. Also Matthew Pryor for a Demand of 48 s. for Tithe, suffered eight Weeks Imprisonment, and after his Discharge had his Goods distrained for the same Demand to the Value of 3 l. 16 s. Several others also in this Year for Claims of 22 l. 19 s. 2 d. for Tithes, suffered Distress of their Goods to the Value of 84 l. 2 s.

Imprisonments
and Distresses
for Tithes.

In this Year John Stevens of Wooton, for refusing to take the Oath required of him, when chosen Constable, suffered six Months Imprisonment in the County Goal.

For not
Swearing.

ANNO 1658.

1658.

Elba Hunt, Mary Botham, Anne Cox, Miles Patteson, and William Edmund, occasionally meeting with the Priest of Risely, reproved him in a scriptural manner for his Misconduct, which he so highly resented, as to cause them to be set in the Stocks three Hours, and next Day they were carried before Gain Squire of Eaton, a Justice of the Peace, who finding no just Cause against them refused to act therein; but another Justice, more officious, and less discreet,

Four Persons
sent to Goal
for reproving
a Priest.

BEDFORD-
SHIRE.
1658.

S. Baker's
Imprisonment.

Imprisonment
for Marrying.

creet, sent them to the common Goal till next Quarter Sessions, when they were all sent to *Bridewell*, and kept there one Month.

Sarah Baker of *Wooburne*, for giving some Christian Exhortation to the People there, in the publick Place of Worship, was also sent to the common Goal; and after about two Months Imprisonment, at Midsummer Sessions sent to *Bridewell* for one Month.

In the same Year *John Impey* of *Barton*, and *Anne* his Wife, suffered three Months Imprisonment, for having taken each other in Marriage, otherwise than in the Form appointed by the *Directory*.

1659.

ANNO 1659.

Distress for
Steeple-house
Rates.

Imprisonment
for Tithes.

Fine for
wearing the
Hat.

Distress for
Tithes.

Several Persons in this County for conscientiously refusing to pay some trivial Sums toward repairing the publick Worship-houses, for Demands of 1s. 10d. suffered Distress of Goods to the Amount of 1l. 1s. 9d.

In this Year were committed to Prison for Tithes, *Edward Franklin*, *George Franklin*, *John Apthorp*, and *Dorothy Neale* Widow, of whom the two former continued Prisoners above fifteen Months, and the latter about two Years.

In the same Year *Nicholas Beard* of *Scotfield*, being cited to serve on a Grand Jury at the *Quarter Sessions*, for appearing there with his Hat on, was fined 13s. 4d. and had his Goods taken by Distress for that Fine to the Value of 1l. 1s. 9d.

In this and the preceding Year for Demands of 9l. 17s. 6d. for Tithes, were taken from sundry Persons by Distress, Goods worth 25l. 11s. 8d.

1660.

ANNO 1660.

Imprisonment
for Tithes.

Case of a
poor Widow.

Fifty two Per-
sons sent to
Prison for re-
fusing to
swear.

In the Month called *May* this Year, *John Samm* was committed to Prison for Tithes, and continued there eighteen Months.

In the Month called *August*, *Elizabeth Bruce*, a poor Widow, was sent to Prison for Tithes of small Value, her House and Ground being rented but at 6l. per *Annum*, out of which she supported herself and two fatherless Children; she was continued a long Time in Prison.

At the Affizes at *Bedford* on the 13th of the Month called *March*, 1660-1, * two and fifty Persons, then in Prison, for refusing the Oath of *Allegiance*, were brought before Judge *Windham*, who ordered the Statutes of 35 *Eliz.* and 7 *James*, to be read; telling the Prisoners, that many of them being but young, might probably be ignorant of the Penalties they were liable to for refusing the Oath. One of them, in the Name of the rest, answered, That the Penalties had been fully considered by them: That they thought it their Duty actively to obey the Laws of the Land, when consistent with the Law of God, and when otherwise, patiently to submit. That the Laws read, appeared to them contrary to the Precept of Christ, Mat. v. which they durst not break. They presented at the same Time to the Judge, a Paper in Writing, as follows, viz.

Their Case
presented to
the Judge in
Writing.

“ **T**Hough it be generally known through *Christendom*, so called, that the
“ People called *Quakers* cannot swear at all, because it is according to
“ the Command of Christ, our Lawgiver, Judge and Saviour, yet for the aking
“ away all Jealousies and Fears out of the Mind of the King, his Council, and
“ other his Officers and Subjects in this Realm, and other Dominions belonging
“ thereunto, that so under him we may live in a godly, holy, honest, peaceable
“ and quiet Life, to serve God and the Creation, in our Generation, We give
“ forth these Lines, concerning the Oath of Allegiance, (obligatory to us) to
“ the King, and to all in the Nation, whom it may concern, that we may
“ not

* Their Names may be distinguished in the Index by referring to this Page.

“ not be made Transgressors without a Cause, and exposed to suffer for keeping our Consciences clear before the Lord.

“ First of all: We do believe and declare, that the immediate Hand of the Lord hath brought in *Charles Stuart*, now proclaimed King of *England*, *Scotland*, &c. according to the Laws and Statutes of the Nation; and that the Pope, neither of himself, nor by any Authority of the Church or See of *Rome*, or by any other means with others, hath any Power to depose the King, or to dispossess him of any of his Dominions, or to authorize any foreign Prince to invade or annoy him, neither to discharge any of his Subjects from their Obedience to him, or to give License or Leave to any to raise up Arms, or to offer any Violence or Hurt to the Person of the King, State, or Government, or to any of his Subjects within his Dominions: And likewise we declare and shall keep our Words, notwithstanding any Declaration or Sentence of Excommunication or Deprivation, made or granted, or to be made or granted by the Pope or his Successors, or by any Authority derived, or pretended to be derived from him, against the King, his lawful Heirs or Successors, or by any Absolution of the said Subjects to the King: And we will not conspire, neither attempt any Conspiracy against his Person, nor plot nor contrive any Thing against him, nor any of his Subjects, neither would we have any others to do it, notwithstanding any Sentence or Declaration from the Pope; and farther we do abhor and detest that Position as impious and Heretical, and a damnable Doctrine, that Princes which be excommunicated by the Pope may be deposed or murdered by their Subjects or otherwise. And further we do believe in our Hearts, that neither the Pope, nor any other whatsoever, have Power to absolve us of this our Acknowledgement and Testimony, or any Part thereof, and do renounce all Pardons and Dispensations to the contrary. And these Things we do plainly and sincerely acknowledge and confess, according to the plain common Sense and Understanding of the Words herein expressed, without any Equivocation, mental Reservation, or secret Evasion whatsoever, and these Things shall attest by Word, and shall, if thereunto lawfully required, set our Hands.

“ So let us not be made a Prey upon, seeing what we do is in a good Conscience to our God, and in it these Things we write, and shall keep in Truth and Righteousness, which may satisfy you and all reasonable Men.”

They also delivered to the *Grand Jury* at the same *Affizes*, a Paper in Writing as follows, viz.

Friends,

“ **Y**OU among whom we have been and conversed, and you who cannot be ignorant of our Behaviour, Carriage and Sufferings, through the many changeable and oppressive Governments, which this Land of our Nativity hath been exercised with, unto the Light of Christ which shineth in your Consciences do we appeal, and to it desire to be made manifest, and by it to be judged. We have been, ever since we were a People, Men of a quiet, sober, peaceable and upright Conversation, neither plotting nor contriving Murder, War or Bloodshed, against any Man or Power that hath been, but as much as in us lay, always sought the Good and Peace of this Nation, and of all Men therein, although from it, and the Magistrates, and the Rulers thereof, we have suffered the Spoil of our Goods, Imprisonment of our Bodies, and the Loss of Blood and Lives of some of us, who have died in nasty Prisons, Holes and Dungeons, under the Custody of cruel and unmerciful Goalers, and that for no other Cause, but for keeping a good Conscience toward God and toward Men: Concerning the unjust and illegal Proceedings which hath from Time to Time been reached forth unto us, it is too long to relate, and how the penal Laws of this Nation which have been made for Plotters, Fighters, and Murderers, have been turned

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B

“ backward,

BEDFORD-
SHIRE.
1660.

A Paper deli-
vered to the
Grand Jury.

BEDFORD-
SHIRE.
1660.

“ backward, and laid as Snares for the Innocent, we think hardly any Court within this Nation is without a Witness.

“ We desire, that these Things you would in Coolness and Meekness of Spirit, which is in God's Sight of great Price, consider of, and let the Fear of God, by whom you have sworn to do justly and equally, be before your Eyes; and unto the Light of Christ which shineth in your Hearts and Consciences, let all your Actions be brought, and let none pass from you, but such as are approved thereby, and let not Justice be turned into Wormwood, nor Judgment into Gall, lest the latter End thereof be Bitterness unto you; and let the Innocent come forth and plead their Cause before you, and let the Teeth of the Devourer be broken, and those whose Helper is not Man, be delivered out thereof, that so a Blessing unto your Generation you may be, and not by doing Injustice and oppressing the Innocent, let your Names and Memories be a Stink and Execration to Generations to come.”

Tender of the
Oath.

On the next Day, the Oath was tendred in Court to six of the Prisoners, viz. *John Rush, John Samm, Thomas Green, Thomas Gamble, Richard Laundry, and John Laundry*, who insisted on the Illegality of their Commitment, having been taken by Violence out of their Beds, though innocent of the Breach of any Law. The Judge answered, *If they had suffered any Wrong, they might take their Remedy at Law, but being now before him, he required them to take the Oath*: Adding, that an Oath was a Part of God's Worship, and that the Scriptures had always been interpreted that Men might swear.

Bills of In-
dictment.

The Prisoners speaking in their own Defence, were interrupted, and ordered to be taken away. The grand Jury found the Bills of Indictment, and returning into Court, one of them was read to the Prisoners, who were told, *The rest were like it*; and they, not forward to plead, were sent back to Prison.

1661.

ANNO 1661.

Death of
John Rush in
Prison.

On the 1st Day of the Month called *January*, *John Rush* of *Kempton Hardwick*, finished his Testimony against Tithes, by laying down his Life in Prison, where he had been confined about a Year at the Suit of one *Wells*, the Priest of *Wilkbamstead*.

1662.

ANNO 1662.

Distresses for
Tithes,

For a Demand of 10s. for Tithe, *James Bennett* of *Statfold*, had a Cow taken from him worth 2l. 16s. 8d. And for a Demand of 18s. Tithe, was taken from *Anthony Bennett* a Cow worth 3l. 18s.

and for not
Swearing.

Richard Laundry, and *William Phillips*, for refusing to take an Oath at the Quarter Sessions were fined 5l. each, and the former of them had an Horse taken from him worth 8l. 10s.

M. Bennett
fined and im-
prisoned.

Matthew Bennett, for refusing to Swear, suffered twenty Weeks Imprisonment, and afterwards was fined 3l. for which his Goods were taken to the Value of 4l. 5s.

1664.

ANNO 1664.

Exorbitant
Distress.

A Widow of *Little Bareford*, named *Rawling*, for a Demand of 5l. 10s. for Tithe, suffered by Distress of Horses and Cattle to the Value of 50l.

Long Imprison-
ments.

In the same Year, six Persons were Prisoners for Tithes in this County, of whom one had been confined three Years, others more than two Years, and one about three Months.

1668.

ANNO 1668.

Thomas Williamson of *Wooton* was imprisoned in *Bedford Goal*, on an Exchequer Process for Tithes.

Robert

Robert Goodes of *Wraslingworth*, was prosecuted in the King's Bench for Tithes of 45*l.* Value, at the Suit of one *Goodchild* a Tithe-farmer, who obtained a Verdict for 135*l.* the treble Value: For which his Goods were taken by an Execution to the Value of 200*l.* but so undervalued by the Sheriff's Officers, that they pretended yet to want 41*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* of their Demand, for which they took away his Bed and committed him to Prison.

BEDFORD-SHIRE.
1668.

Excessive
Seizure for
Tithes.
Imprisonment
for Tithes.

Richard Smith of *Girford*, in the Parish of *Sandy*, was imprisoned on an Exchequer Process: There were also Prisoners at the same Time on Writs de *Excommunicato Capiendo*, *Thomas Ballard* of *Elston*, *Thomas Beale* of *Luton*, *Francis Coleman* of *Wooburne*, and *Richard Laundry* of *Boldenburst*.

John Rush and *Tabitha Rush*, for refusing to take an Oath in the Commissaries Court, were committed to Prison: As was also *John Curse* of *Harlington*, for refusing to take the Oath of a Constable, and to pay a Fine of 40*s.* for such Refusal: Sentence of *Premunire* was past upon him, his Goods seized, and himself continued several Years in Prison.

Imprisonment
for not Swear-
ing.
Sentence of
Premunire.

ANNO 1670.

1670.

By a Law then made, intituled, *An Act to prevent and suppress seditious Conventicles*, imposing Fines both on Preachers and Hearers, and giving one Third to the Informer or Informers, the vilest of Men were encouraged to prey upon the Conscientious. This induced *Thomas Dier*, a Barber in *Wooburne*, to inform the Officers there of a Meeting at the House of *William Albright*. The Officers went to the House, and called *William Albright* out, but neither went in, nor saw who else was there. However, they, with *Dier*, went next Morning to Justice *Charnock* at *Sawford*, and gave in the Names of such Persons as they supposed to be at the Meeting, and obtained the following Warrant, viz.

Conventicle
Act.

Informers
thereby en-
couraged.

Bedford *js.*

" To all the Constables, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor of
" *Wooburne*, to either or any of them.

" Whereas the Persons here underwritten have, contrary to the late Act
" of the present Parliament, met at a Conventicle at *Wooburne* afore-
" said, and do stand convicted thereof by the Oaths of two or more Witnesses,
" that the said Persons underwritten, did meet under Pretence of Religion, at
" the House of *William Albright* of *Wooburne* aforesaid, upon the 15th Day of
" this Instant *May*, 1670, to the Number of above four Persons, besides the
" Persons usually residing in the Family of the said *William Albright*. These
" are therefore in his Majesty's Name to command you, or either of you, upon
" the Sight hereof, to demand of the several Persons underwritten, the
" several Sums set upon them, they being according to the said Act fined.

Warrant for
Fines and
Distress.

" *IMPRIMIS*, *William Albright*, for permitting the said Conventicle at his
" House, the Sum of 20*l.*

" *William Albright*, for being present at the said Conventicle, the Sum of 5*s.*

" The Wife of the said *William Albright*, for being present at the same Con-
" venticle, the Sum of 5*s.* For the Speaker, whose Name cannot be known,

" fined 20*l.* to be levied upon all that were present at the same Conventicle.

" The Wife of *Francis Coleman*, for being at the same Conventicle, 5*s.* *Sarah*

" *Baker*, for being at the same Conventicle, 5*s.* *Thomas Sinfield*, for being

" at the same Conventicle, 5*s.* *Mary Saunders*, for being at the same Con-

" venticle, 5*s.* *Robert Gurney*, for being at the same Conventicle, 5*s.*

" And if the said Persons do upon Demand refuse to pay you the several

" Sum or Sums of Money by Fine set upon them, that you, and every of

" you, levy upon the Offenders Goods and Chattels, the said several Sum or

" Sums of Money by Distress and Sale of the said Offenders Goods, return-

ing

BEDFORD-
SHIRE.
1670.

Preacher's
Fine levied on
others.

Grievous Suf-
ferings of
W. Albright.

Fines for
meeting at his
House.

An inhuman
Seizure.

Justice Char-
nock's Severi-
ty.

Other Dis-
tresses.

Convictions
on slight In-
formations.

ing the Overplus. Given under my Hand and Seal this 16th Day of
May, 1670.

St. John Charnock.

The Justice farther directed, that the \dagger Speaker's Fine of 20*l.* should be
levied, 5*l.* thereof on William Albright, 5*l.* on George Galsey, and the other
10*l.* on William Cooke of Bowbrick-hill. Accordingly, Galsey had his Haycock
taken away, and Cooke his Cart, Hay, household Stuff, and other Things.
Robert Gurney, for his Fine of 5*s.* had a Kettle taken worth 8*s.* and Mary
Saunders, for her Fine, had six Pewter Plates taken worth 12*s.* some of which
were her Mother's, who at that Time received Alms of the Parish.

But far more severe were the Sufferings of William Albright, for on the 6th,
8th, and 9th of the Month called August this Year, one Bumstead, a Bayliff's
Follower, with others, came to his House, and by Warrant from the said Justice
Charnock, broke open his Doors, and took away Timber, Malt, Oats, and
other Things to the Value of above 70*l.* Howbeit, the said Albright conti-
nued stedfast, in permitting religious Meetings at his House, till by repeated
Seizures he was so impoverished, that having nothing left to satisfy the Fines, he
was committed to Prison about the Month of October this Year.

Although Albright was now close shut up, yet his Heart and House continued
open to his Friends, who held their religious Meetings there as before, in Faith
and Patience: At one of them Mercy Cartwright, and Thomas Harvey, being
present, were fined 10*l.* each for a supposed Preacher, though the Meeting was
held in Silence: Such Mistakes the Justices frequently made, for they not un-
derstanding the Nature of performing spiritual Worship in an awful and holy
Stillness, took for granted, that where a Meeting was, a Preacher must be.

Sarah Baker, a poor Widow, for 15*s.* Fine, suffered Distress of the few
household Goods she had; among which, having boiled Milk in a Skillet for
two sick Children, the Informers threw away the poor Babes Sustenance, and
made Prize of the Skillet.

Robert Gurney, and Francis Ireland, for Tithes of 10*s.* each, suffered Dis-
tress; the former to the Value of 30*s.* and the latter of 22*s.*

The Officers and others concerned in making the Distresses, were excited to
Severity by Justice Charnock, telling them, *They might take an 100*l.* for 20*l.*
and bring him the Money, for his Clerk must have some of it for his Pains:*
Adding, *that they must take the more, because few would buy the Goods:* For
about that Time it happened, that Richard Laundry of Boldenburs, for being at
a Meeting at the House of Thomas Sutton in Little Stanton, was fined 5*s.* for
himself, and 10*l.* for a Preacher, and had Wheat taken from him worth 14*l.*
which Wheat, when exposed to Sale at Bedford Market, no Body there would
buy; nor would the Officers, who made the Distress unwillingly, take it at
any Rate: So it was left to the Justices and Informers to dispose of.

For being at the same Meeting, Distresses were also made,

On Thomas Sutton to the Value of

John Bullock

William Laman

William Metcalf

Mary Read

Robert Rotham of Risely

15

7

6

0

0

0

12

14

43

5

0

On the 22d of the Month called May, this Year, five Persons, drest like
Soldiers, came to the House of William Richardson near Tury, and seeing some
Persons

\dagger Though in Truth there was no Speaker at that Meeting, for the Assembly was alto-
gether held in Silence.

Persons walking in the Hall, enquired their Names. Of this they went and informed the Justices, who were pleased to call it a Conventicle, and granted Warrants, by which were taken from the said *William Richardson* 160 Fleeces of Wool and other Goods worth 23*l.* 10*s.* and from *Matthew Beadles*, and *Samuel Wharton*, Pewter worth 8*s.* each.

BEDFORDSHIRE.
1670.

On the 29th of the same Month, was a Meeting at the House of *James Taylor* of *Hardwick*, of which Justice *Ventress* being informed, issued his Warrant, by which was taken,

Distresses for a Meeting.

	l.	d.	s.
From <i>James Taylor</i> , seven Cows and an Ox, worth	40	0	0
<i>John Samm</i> of <i>Clifton</i> , Goods worth	2	0	0
<i>Thomas Wiltshire</i> , a poor Hemp-dresser, a working Tool called an Hitchen, worth	0	10	0
<i>Mordecai Suerby</i> , Pewter and Brass, worth	0	10	0
<i>Elizabeth Beadle</i> , a very poor Woman	0	8	0
<i>William Picely</i> , a poor Weaver, working Tools	0	10	0
<i>William Coslin</i> of <i>Southill</i> , Goods worth	0	13	0
<i>John Geddins</i> of <i>Henloe</i> , Pewter worth	0	8	0
<i>Benjamin Masters</i> of the same, Goods worth	0	6	0
<i>William Skillet</i> , a very poor Man	0	6	0
	45	11	0

For another Meeting in the same House on the 26th of the Month called *June*, the said *James Taylor* had taken from him by the high Constable, and others, who refused to show their Warrant, five Horses worth about 60*l.* which they often attempted to sell, but could not; till at length they were purchased by a Person who had been formerly High Sheriff of the County.

Suffering of *James Taylor*.

On the 5th of the Month called *July*, was a Meeting in the House of *William Phillips* of *Statfold*, for which was taken by a Warrant granted by Justice *Bedford* of *Henloe*, from

and of *W. Phillips* and others.

	l.	s.	d.
The said <i>William Phillips</i> , three Horses worth	30	0	0
<i>John Passil</i> , Goods worth	0	9	0
<i>Hannah Freeman</i>	0	7	0
<i>William Burton</i>	0	9	0
<i>Anthony Bennett</i>	0	8	0
<i>John Freeman</i>	0	7	0
	32	0	0

Thomas Gamble of *Pollux-hill*, was fined 20*l.* for a Meeting held at his House, for which were taken by Distress, five fat Cows.

ANNO 1672.

In this Year the following Persons were released out of *Bedford Goal* by the King's Letters patent, viz. *John Fenn*, *John Bunnion*, *John Dunn*, *Thomas Haynes*, *Simon Haynes*, *George Farr*, *James Rogers*, *John Rush*, *Tabitha Rush*, and *John Curfe*.

Prisoners discharged.

ANNO 1675.

Several Inhabitants of this County, taken at a Meeting in *Buckinghamshire*, were fined by Justice *Thomas Hacket* of that County, who certifying the same

Fines for a Meeting in another County.

BEDFORD-
SHIRE.
1675.

to Sir John Charnock, he granted a Warrant for Distress, by which were taken,

	Fine	Goods worth
From Richard Hartwell of Wooburne, for	3 5 0	3 19 0
Francis Ireland	0 5 0	0 15 0
Sarah Baker of Wooburne	1 5 0	4 10 0
Mercy Cartwright of Asply Guise	9 0 0	15 0 0

For 13 15 0 Taken 24 4 0

Several Pro-
secutions by
the Means of
Justice Keel-
ing.

By an Order of Sessions held at Shefford on the 8th of the Month called April this Year, Prosecutions were carried on afresh, especially in the Parish where Justice Keeling dwelt, whose Authority influenced inferior Officers to act beyond their Inclinations. From William Rogers, a Wheelwright, they took his working Tools, not for want of other Goods, but on purpose to disable him from working for his Livelihood. From a poor lame Maid, a Baptist, who earned her Bread by spinning and teaching Children, they took, by the Justice's Order, her spinning Wheel: He also forbade the Neighbours to send her their Children, saying, in his ignorant Zeal, *She should not teach Children to be damn'd*; and when she had no Goods left to distrain, he threatened to send her to Bridewell. He not only caused the Goods of several poor People to be taken away, but threatened to punish their Neighbours for relieving them. The Priest of the Parish was of a like Disposition, for hearing of a Meeting in a distant Place, he by Threats constrained the Constable to go thither, and give Information to the Justice. And so intent was this Priest on a Part of the Prey, that he went into the Yard of the aforesaid William Rogers, and cheapned some Wood, of which when the Owner told him the Price, he replied, *I'll let it alone till it be distrain'd, and then I shall have it for half the Value.*

A Constable
compelled to
inform.

Hard Saying
of a Justice
and a Con-
stable.

Another Zealot in this Work, was George Blundell of Cordington, a Justice of the Peace, who seeing the People unwilling to buy distrained Goods, said, *He would sell a Cow for a Shilling, rather than the Work should not go forward.* It is probable this Justice's Example might induce the Constable of the same Parish to a like Behaviour, in the following Instance: When a poor Man, an Independent, met this Constable carrying away a Tub of his, and desired him, saying, *Pray Neighbour don't take away my Tub, 'tis all I have, and I had much ado to get Money to pay for it,* the profane ill-natured Officer replied, *Come to Church then and be damn'd, if you will.* This Expression shews, by what kind of Spirit some Men are led, while they pretend a Zeal for the Support of the Church, and Propagation of Religion.

Imprisonment
for Tithes.

In or about this Year Thomas Ballard of Elston, was arrested and committed to Prison for Tithes at the Suit of Thomas Hillersden of the same Place.

1678.

ANNO 1678.

Long Imprison-
ment of John
Barton.

John Barton of Studam, in the County of Hartford, Taylor, for not paying 2s. 2d. toward repairing the Parish Church, so called, was taken by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, and kept Prisoner at his own House for some Time, and about two Months after was taken by special Bayliffs and carried to Bedford Goal, where he remained a Prisoner three Years and an half.

and of Henry
Newman.

For a like Claim of 1s. 1d. Henry Newman of Seagwell, in the Parish of King's Haughton, was thrown into Goal by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, and lay there above two Years and an half.

1682.

ANNO 1682.

Fines for Ab-
sence from
Church.

At the Quarter Sessions held about Midsummer, John Squire, Thomas Lickas, Joseph Barber, John Smith, and Richard Compton, were severally fined for

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II

for absenting from the national Worship: as were also about the same Time, **BEDFORD-SHIRE.**

Robert Tyloe, Robert Lowledge, and Richard Gurney.

1682.

ANNO 1683.

1683.

Samuel Britton was continued Prisoner a considerable Time, for a Demand of about 15s. for Tithes.

Imprisonment for Tithes.

In this Year Daniel King was imprisoned for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance.

William Richardson was imprisoned for not going to his Parish Church, so called, as were also William Weith, and Francis Bell.

Several Imprisonments.

William Mather, after a Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical Court, was committed to Prison on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo.

Joseph Barber was prosecuted on the Statute for 20l. a Month, for eleven Months Absence from his Parish Church, so called, the Forfeitures for which Time amounted to 220l. which in the Month called August this Year, was daily expected to be levied on his Estate.

We shall close our Account of this County by taking Notice of the remarkable End of two Informers, whose sudden Deaths were interpreted by many as a Token of the divine Vengeance: Their Names were Fecknam and Swinton, both of Bedford. Fecknam, who had been an Apparitor, turned Informer, and was observed to be very active and vigilant for his Part of the Spoil: He had not long followed his new Employment, before he was suddenly taken sick, having a Flux of Blood both upwards and downwards, which continued till he died, and the Smell of him was exceedingly offensive. Swinton was Sexton of Cuthbert's Parish in Bedford, and was found dead in the Steeple-house there, besmeared with Blood, and having a Rope and a Ladder by him. As their Practice of informing had render'd them odious to their Neighbours in general, the unusual manner of their Exit became a Subject of popular Remark.

Miserable End of two Informers.

CHAP. III.

BERKSHIRE.

BERK-SHIRE.

1655.

ANNO 1655.

L EONARD COLE, for refusing to pay Tithes, suffered six Weeks Imprisonment at Reading, and soon after his Discharge, for a Demand of 5s. had an Horse taken from him worth 4l.

Imprisonment for Tithes.

ANNO 1656.

1656.

In this and the foregoing Year, Joseph Cole, Dorothy Waugh, George Adamson, Hannab Mills, Thomas Curtis and Anne his Wife, were imprisoned at several Times, for offering to speak, by way of Christian Exhortation, to the Priest and People when assembled in their Place for publick Worship at Reading.

Imprisonments for Preaching.

John Evans, for reprehending one of the publick Preachers, who thought himself above Reproof, was by him prosecuted and cast into Reading Goal.

Leonard Cole aforesaid, who held a Farm at Arborfield, was imprisoned twelve Weeks at Reading, and then removed by Habeas Corpus to the Fleet in London: While there, the Priest, his Prosecutor, with Bayliffs, made a Seizure of his

L. Cole again imprisoned.

Corn Excessive Distress.

BERK-
SHIRE.
1656.

Imprisonments
for small De-
mands.
Imprisonment
for not swear-
ing.

Corn and Cattle to the Value of near an 100*l*. all for one Year's Tithes, for which the former Occupier told Cole, he used to pay but 6*l*.
Edward Hide, and William Kible, were imprisoned in Reading Goal about half a Year, for Tithes demanded; of the one of them 5*s*. and of the other but 1*s*. 6*d*.

Robert Hodgson, for preaching to the People in the Street at Newbury, was carried before the Mayor, who tendred him the Oath of Abjuration; and for refusing to Swear, committed him to Reading Goal.

1660.

ANNO 1660.

Rough Pro-
ceedings of the
Militia.

On the 27th of the Month called May this Year, some of the County Militia came to a religious Meeting at Kingston Lisle, and with the Points of their Swords, wounded Richard Ballard, John Clark, and Hugh Penston; with Clubs they broke the Heads of Robert Cook and Edward Ware, and cruelly beat Bartholomew Maylin an aged Man, Thomas Coleburn, Robert Sansom, and Adam Laurence; after which they dragged out those four, with Robert Cooke, and Richard Greenway, by the Hair, thrust some, and threw others of them, into a Pond of muddy Water. Being desired to shew the Commission by which they acted, one of them held up his Sword, saying, *This is my Warrant.*

Monstrous
Abuses.

About the 3d of October, a Constable and others, armed with Pitchforks, Bills, Staves, and such like Weapons, entred a Meeting at Stevenston, pulled out Thomas Curtis, and threw him into a Pond, tearing his Coat in pieces: With like Barbarity they used several others, sparing neither Age, nor Sex. One of them was trode on and kept down in the Water, till some of their own Company cry'd out, *You'll drown the Man.* After which they drove the innocent People along the Highway, inhumanly abusing and bemiring them. This wicked Insult was said to be acted at the Instigation of a drunken Priest, who having been told, that *the Weapons of his Warfare ought to be spiritual*, replied, that *he would fight the Quakers with such Weapons as he had.*

Saying of
drunken
Priest.

Sundry Im-
prisonments
for refusing to
Swear.

About ten Days after, John Giles, Leonard Cole, Humphry Knowles, and Andrew Pearson, were taken out of a Meeting at Mary Slade's at Kingston Lisle, and committed to Prison for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance tendred them by three Justices, where they lay about three Months, till the Quarter Sessions; and then, together with Richard Greenway (who had been before imprisoned, for speaking a few Words by way of Exhortation to the People, after the Priest had ended his Sermon at Farrington) were required by the Court to take the Oath, and for Refusal were recommittd. At the same Sessions were sent to Prison for the same Cause, Robert Kingham, Robert Wapshott, and Thomas Dell, who were apprehended passing through Maidenhead to visit their Friends in Prison at Reading. At the same Time were imprisoned there Thomas Clark, Adam Laurence, Robert Sansom, Richard Gery, and Mary Slade, at whose House they were taken a few Days before.

Some appre-
hended by
Night.

On the 13th of the Month called January, were added to the Number of Prisoners, seven others, taken by Soldiers from a Meeting at the House of Thomas Davie in Windsor.

Close and
cruel Confinement.

On the 31st of the same Month, Roger Milton was called out of his Bed by Officers with a Warrant, and kept together with John Dudge and William Wyatt, under a Guard all Night, and next Day were conveyed to Twyford; whence, for refusing the Oath of Allegiance tendred by three Justices, they were sent to the County Goal. These conscientious Prisoners there met with cruel Usage; the Goaler locked up twenty two of them in a Dungeon among Felons, a Place so close, that himself said, *he thought it would breed an Infection among them*; nor would he allow them Liberty of breathing in the Yard in the Day-time, a Privilege usually allowed even to Thieves and Murderers. Their Friends were not suffered to visit them, nor to bring them Food or other Necessaries. Their Ink, Paper, Knives, and working Tools, were taken from them: They were made the Subject of their Keeper's Scorn and Derision, who bringing some of his Companions

Companions to see them, scoffingly said, *there was not such another Bed in BERKSHIRE*, alluding to the dismal thronged manner in which those poor afflicted Prisoners lay.

BERKSHIRE.
1660.

In the same Month, *Reynold Avery, Walter Emerton, William Tomson, William Yeate, Edward Smith, Christopher Cheesman, James Lavel, Thomas Bartlett, Joseph Phipps, and Anthony Dixon*, were taken at a Meeting in Reading by Soldiers, and for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, were by the Mayor and another Justice, sent to the Town Prison, called the Counter. They were kept close Prisoners, together with *Anthony Sadler*, who was taken by Soldiers, going to his daily Labour.

A Remarkable Occurrence happened this Year at Reading Assizes. *Henry Hodges*, a poor Smith, lost three Cows, which were found in Possession of the Thief, who took them: He was brought to Trial, and *Henry* appeared to claim his Cows: The Judge told him, *they must be proved his upon Oath before he could have them again.* He replied, that *he could not Swear for Conscience-sake.* The Judge said, *if any of his Neighbours would swear they were his, they should be restored him.* Upon which one of his Neighbours took his Oath, and the Judge promised they should be returned. Thus far the Proceeding appeared just and equal; but many thought the same Judge too rigorous, when, having observed the Sincerity and Tenderness of the poor Man's Conscience, who could not swear in a Case of his own Property, he caused the Oath of Allegiance to be tendered him in Court, and for refusing to take it, sent him to Goal.

A remarkable Passage at Reading Assizes.

ANNO 1662.

1662.

On the 8th of the Month called *April* this Year, *Thomas Curtis, George Lamboll, Reynold Avery, Robert Paine, Maurice Hutchins, Henry Wooden, Clement Taylor, James Lavel, Richard Green, and Christopher Good*, appeared at *Newbury Sessions*, being summoned thither for not going to the publick Worship: They were indicted, and pleaded *not Guilty*, but refusing to put in Bail, were sent to Prison.

Indictments at Newbury Sessions.

On the 15th of the Month called *June*, two Constables, sent by the Mayor, came to the Meeting at *Thomas Curtis's House in Reading*, and took the Names of the Persons met. Next Day, by Warrant from the Mayor, they took *William Lambell, William Tomson, Anthony Sadler, Thomas Tudway, Walter Emerton, James Dee, Anne Hatt, Hannab Webb, and Sarah Lamboll*, and sent them to Goal, except the two last, who were bailed by a Person without their Knowledge: But, being taken again on the 22d at another Meeting, they were then sent to Prison, with seventeen others, viz.

Several imprisoned for Meetings at Reading.

Leonard Cole
Joseph Cole
Jonathan Lamboll
Thomas Chilton
Joseph Walker
John Fellows

Joseph Phipps
Thomas Bartlett
John Boulton
James Whitehart
Edward Smith
John Reynolds

Richard Hutchins
Anne Sharp
Margery Richardson
Elizabeth Dee, Widow
Bridget Smith

On the 18th of the Month called *July*, *Sarah Lamboll* and *Hannab Webb*, were brought to the Town Sessions at *Reading*, but instead of proceeding against them on the Cause of their Commitment, they were asked, *whether they would take the Oath of Allegiance?* And for refusing it, were sent again to Prison.

On the 22d, thirty four others of the Prisoners were brought to an Adjournment of the Quarter Sessions at *Abington*, several being left sick in Goal. *Thomas Curtis, George Lamboll*, and seven others of the ten before indicted at *Newbury*, for not going to the national Worship, were tried by a Jury and acquitted. Nevertheless, *Thomas Holt*, Chairman that Sessions, caused the Oath of

Proceedings at Abington Sessions.

BERK-
SHIRE.
1662.

25 Acquitted.

19 of them
recommitted;
also 28 others
sent to Prison.

Allegiance to be tendered to *Thomas Curtis* and *George Lamboll*, and for refusing it, sent them to Goal: Of the other seven the Justices demanded Sureties for their good Behaviour, which they not giving, were also recommitted: The other five and twenty Prisoners, being acquitted by the Jury, were set at Liberty.

On the 27th of the same Month, *George Thorn*, Mayor, and *Thomas Seikes*, Justice, came with Soldiers to the Meeting, and finding there nineteen of the last mentioned twenty five, committed them again to Prison, with twenty eight others, viz.

Leonard Keys	Frances Kent	Hannah Emerton
Walter Emerton	Elizabeth Tudway	Judith Smith
Humphry Emerton	Jane Wilesby	Hannah Mills
John Walker	Rachel Cope	Anne Webb
John Jeggar	Sarah Paine	Dorothy Clark
William Yeate	Anne Weedon	Katharine Edsoll
Jasper May	Jane Hufsey	Frances Dawson
Thomas Speed	Joane Wheeler	Joane Terry
William Whistler	Anne South	
Anne Hatt	Hannah Wrenn	

Proceedings at
Newbury
Sessions.

At Newbury Sessions on the 7th of October, the seven Men before mentioned, committed for not finding Sureties, were discharged; and the rest of the Men last taken, were indicted for being at an unlawful Meeting, and pleaded *not guilty*, but refusing to give Sureties, were sent back to Goal.

1663.

Proceedings at
Newbury
Sessions.

At the Sessions held at Newbury on the 28th of the Month called April, one and twenty of the Prisoners were called into Court; and the Judge said to them, *You are discharged, and I pray God bless you: But though we discharge you, we can't give away the Clerk's Fees.* The Prisoners said, *they would talk with the Clerk*, who, after some Conference with them, though they gave him no Money, consented to release them.

Violent Pro-
ceedings of
W. Armorer.

After this the Meetings at Reading continued quiet for some Time, for *George Thorne*, the Mayor, having long hurried the Quakers from one Sessions to another, began to cool and grow weary of the Work. But in the next Year the Persecution there was renewed by *William Armorer*, a Justice of the Peace, who by extending the Laws to their utmost Severity, and by his own additional Cruelty in the Execution thereof, appeared to seek the utter Ruin of his quiet and peaceable Neighbours: The violent Proceedings of this Magistrate are next to be related.

1664.

Commitment
of 34, for
Meeting.

ANNO 1664.

On the 27th of the Month called March 1664, *William Armorer* came to a Meeting at *Thomas Curtis's* House, pulled out the young Children, and took down the Names of thirty four Men, viz. *John Beeke, Henry Bristow, Thomas Chilton, Thomas Cenick, Thomas Curtis, Leonard Cole, Walter Emerton, John Fellows, Edward Fellows, Daniel Green, Thomas Hefield, Thomas Hind, Richard Hutbins, Leonard Keys, John Kemboll, George Lamboll, Jonathan Lamboll, James Lavel, Edward Lamboll, William Lamboll, Jasper May, James Marlow, Thomas Norris, Christopher Page, John Paine, Joseph Phipps, Robert Piter, Henry Pizeing, Thomas Speed, Anthony Sadler, William Tomson, Thomas Tudway, James Whitebart, and William Whistler*; he then caused his Clerk to write a *Mittimus*, and sent them to the County Goal in Reading, for being at an unlawful Meeting.

On

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25

On the 3d of the next Month, he came again to the Meeting, and sent Robert Paine, and John Boul, to Prison, no other Man being there. The Discourse he then had with John Boul, giving a just Idea of his Temper and Spirit, was as follows, viz.

W. Armorer. What a devil are you met again? I will send you all to Prison. What a devil are you all dumb? Has the Devil cast a Club over you, and bewitched you?

J. Boul. We have learned of a better Spirit, even the Spirit of Christ Jesus, which teacheth us to deny the Devil, and all his Instruments.

W. A. Who the devil will believe you? Hang you: You are deluded by the Spirit of the Devil: I will send you all to Prison.

J. B. Many good People will believe us, and we wholly deny the Spirit of the Devil, having chosen a better Spirit, the Spirit of Christ Jesus, which is a Spirit of Love and Meekness, of Patience and Humility.

W. A. You say true: It is so.

J. B. And the Spirit of the Devil is an angry, furious, hasty, persecuting Spirit.

W. A. He is so.

J. B. Come let us try, who is of this Spirit, thou or we.

W. A. A devil on you, I could find in my Heart to lay you over the Pate with my Cane.

J. B. Thou oughtest to keep the Peace, and I hope thou wilt not break it: Didst thou ever read that Christ or any of his Apostles did persecute?

W. A. Did none? Christ's Flock is but a little Flock, and there is but a few of you, but I will make you fewer: I will haunt you out, and send you to Prison.

J. B. That's the weakest thing thou canst do: If thou canst convince me of any thing that is Evil, I will bear thee, and let the Prisons alone.

This Conference plainly shews the Violence of the Man's Temper, and the Weakness of his Reasoning: But to proceed.

On the 1st of the Month called May, he came again to the Meeting, and sent thence to Prison, Thomas Bartlett, Anne Hatt, Anne Thorp, Hannah Webb, Sarah Paine, Dorothy Clark, and Elizabeth Sprage.

On the 8th of the same Month he came again, there being no Men, he took seven Women, viz. Bridget Smith, Anne Curtis, Sarah Lamboll, Judith Smith, Katharine Woodward, Martha Cheesman, and Elizabeth Kempton, and sent them to Goal with a Mittimus, by Thomas Coats, Constable.

On the 22d of the same, he came with his usual Rage, but finding only a few Children and young Maidens in the Meeting, he struck one of them with his Staff, and ordered them to be pulled out, threatening to send them to Prison, if they came thither any more.

On the 7th of the fourth Month called June, he gave all the Women and Maidens Leave to go out of Prison, and to come again when he sent for them, except six, viz. Anne Hatt, Anne Curtis, Sarah Lamboll, Anne Sharp, Sarah Paine, and Elizabeth Cragg: Some Time after Thomas Coats the Constable, came to the Goal, and fetched out Anne Sharp also.

At a Quarter Sessions held at Abington, on the 12th of the Month called July this Year, the Prisoners whom Armorer had committed, were called to the Bar, but instead of a legal Trial upon the Cause of their Commitment, were ensnared with the Oath of Allegiance: James Whitehart was first called, but coming with his Hat on, the Justices were so angry, that they ordered him to be taken away, without asking whether he would take the Oath or not.

The next called was Henry Pizeing, who coming to the Bar with his Hat off, and bowing his Body to them, Thomas Holt, Judge of the Sessions, said, Here's a Man has some Manners, and asked him, whether he would take the Oath of Allegiance? His Answer was, I have taken it already. The Judge said, But you were no Quaker then. Henry replied, Neither am I now, but have been many Weeks among them, and I never saw any Hurt by them; but they are an honest civil

BERKSHIRE.
1664.

Discourse betwixt W. Armorer and J. Boul.

Meetings not listed.

Abington Sessions.

H. Pizeing no Quaker.

BERK-
SHIRE.
1664.



W. ARMORER
T. CURTIS
J. DOLBY

civil People. Upon which *W. Armorer* stood up, and said, *Why did not you tell me so before?* *Henry* answered, *Your Worship was so wrathful that you would not bear me.* Then the Judge said, *He must take it again.* So the Oath was read to him, and he said after them; and he having taken the Oath, the Justices ordered him to be discharged without paying Fees, but advised him to go out privately at a Back-door, and come no more among the Quakers, but he told them, he hoped, now he was freed, he might go out at which Door he pleased.

Several other of the Prisoners were called, and asked, whether they would take the Oath of Allegiance? They answered, that they were not committed on Account of the Oath, but for being at a Meeting. The Judge replied, *We discharge you as to your Meeting, but you must take the Oath of Allegiance.* *Thomas Curtis* being called, said, that he did not refuse the Oath through any Default of Allegiance to the King, but because Christ had commanded NOT TO SWEAR AT ALL, that he had approved himself a faithful Subject to the King, and would take that Oath as soon as any; and therefore desired the Court would permit one of their Ministers to shew him by the Scriptures how he might take it, and not break the Command of Christ. The Judge spake to a Priest sitting by, to endeavour to satisfy *Thomas* in that Point, but he desired to be excused, saying, they were an obstinate People, and not to be satisfied. The politick Priest started that Objection to palliate his own Lack of Argument. At length *William Armorer* commanded them all to be taken away, saying, *I know they will not take it, though many of them had not refused it.*

Next Morning (after *Armorer* had gone out of Town) two others of the Quakers, viz. *Richard Billingsley* and *Richard Sargood*, summoned thither for not going to Church, were called: But the Court dropt the Matter of their Summons, and only tendred them the Oath, which they refusing, were sent to Goal at Reading with the rest of the Prisoners.

Soon after their Return to Prison, *Armorer* having Intelligence that the Sheriff had given *Thomas Curtis* Leave to go to Bristol Fair on his trading Concerns, sent a Constable with a Warrant to the Goaler, to bring the said *Thomas* before him to the Bear Inn in Reading: Being brought thither, *Armorer* said to him, *You are going to Bristol Fair, but I'll stop your Journey,* and commanded the Constable to carry him to the Counter, being the Town Prison; he refusing to go, as being a Prisoner in the County Goal, was compelled by the Constable and another Officer called to his Assistanee.

About three Days after, came on the Sessions for the Borough of Reading, whither *Thomas Curtis* was brought from the Counter, before *Thomas Seikes* Mayor, *W. Armorer* and *Edward Dolby* Justices, and many others in the Council Chamber; when a Paper was produced written by one or other of the Prisoners, setting forth the Reasons why they could not Swear, and lamenting the Case of those who, under the Name of Christians, habituated themselves to Cursing and Swearing. Their Examination of *Thomas Curtis* was thus,

Mayor. Did you send those Papers?

T. C. I received them from a little Maid that came from the Goal, and I sent them.

Mayor. Did you write them?

T. C. No.

Mayor. Did you indite them?

T. C. I will not answer such Questions, read the Paper and I will say more to it.

So they gave him the Paper and he read it, and reading Part of it, viz. *Because of Swearing the Land mourns*, Alderman *Johnson* said, *That is very true.* And having read it, T. Curtis said, *It is every Word true and shall stand for ever, I do own it.* Then said *W. Armorer*, I will send it to the Council. *Thomas Curtis* answered, *I wish they had every One one of them.*

The said Paper was as follows, viz.

THE

Reading
Sessions.

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1664.Paper against
Swearing.

“THE Eternal God, from whom no Secret can be hid, sees your Doings,
 “and the Eye of the Lord beholds the Way that now you walk in, and
 “the Works you are about, who are persecuting his Lambs and imprisoning
 “his People, who for the fulfilling of his Commands and walking in his
 “Ways, have chosen the Sufferings of this present World, rather than all the
 “Glory and Pleasures this World can afford them, and we have counted up
 “our Cost, and do find upon serious Deliberation, that it is better for us to
 “die by the Hands of the hard-hearted and cruel Men of this World, in and
 “under the Favour, Love and Friendship of the Lord, than to lose our
 “Peace with him, by making Shipwreck of our Faith and Peace of Con-
 “science which the Lord hath given us; and we have truly debated, pon-
 “dered and considered this our present State of hard and cruel Suffering in our
 “own Bosoms, and weighed our Hearts in the Balance of God’s Truth, and
 “there is nothing in all this World that could make us leave our Wives and
 “Families, our Callings, Estates, and Employments, but this very Thing,
 “namely, the Truth of our God, and the Worship of Christ Jesus, the Pro-
 “fession and Practice of which at this Day, is the Ground of this our Suffer-
 “ing. And whereas you press us so hard to take the Oath of Allegiance, and
 “come to your Church; we do declare in the Sincerity of our Hearts, That
 “the Ground and Cause why we cannot take an Oath in any Case, although
 “it be to the Loss of our Estates and Life is, because Jesus Christ and his
 “Apostle have commanded us *not to Swear at all*, and it is not lawful for us
 “in any Case to break Christ’s Command: And if any of your Ministers,
 “Doctors, Priests or Bishops, can make it appear by God’s Word, or the
 “Scriptures, that it’s lawful for us to Swear, and that we may Swear, and not
 “fall into Damnation, we will take it. And therefore cease calling for us to
 “Swear, and break Christ’s Command, till your Doctors, Bishops, Curates or
 “Ministers, or some of them, have convinced us that it may be done, and
 “Christ’s Command not broken. There is too much Swearing already, and
 “*because of Swearing the Land mourns*. And as concerning coming to your
 “Church, we have with much Gravity considered the true State of the Church
 “of which you are Members, to see if possible we might come to you, and
 “join with you, and not lose our Peace with God; and this we find, that
 “you have called yourselves by the Name of the Church of Christ, but the
 “Nature of Christians and of the Church of Christ is denied by you: For the
 “Pride we daily see, and the Oaths we daily hear from the Members of
 “your Church, is sufficient to make an *Heathen* or a *Turk*, much more a
 “*Christian*, quite out of Love with it: And further, the Cruelty that is
 “practised by your Members, as haling Men and Women out of their peace-
 “able Meetings, and casting them into Prison, contrary to the Lord Jesus
 “Christ’s Practice and Doctrine, is Ground enough for us to believe, that
 “you are neither *Members of Christ’s Church*, nor *Children of God*, nor *Heirs*
 “*of his blessed Kingdom*; for if you were Members of Christ’s Church, you
 “would not act such high Blasphemies against the Living God, as to Swear by
 “*the Blood and Wounds of God*, and *God damn me*, and *God confound me*; and
 “when you have so done, enter into your Church, and cry aloud, *We beseech thee*
 “*to hear us, good Lord*; and this is too common among the Members of your
 “Church. Now in the Coolness of your Hearts, consider what it is you are
 “so earnestly persuading us unto: How can we come among you, and join
 “in Prayer with such as act this great Wickedness? If we should come and
 “join with you, the Lord might damn us all together; for it is the same
 “Tongue, the same Lips, and the same Spirit that Swears before you enter,
 “that when you are entered calls to God to hear you: So that the Words of
 “the Apostle are fulfilled, *Out of the same Mouth proceedeth Blessing and*
 “*Cursing*. O ye unwise in Heart! ye know not God, neither of what Spirit
 “ye are, and therefore be advised before it is too late, for in Love to your
 “Souls do we declare unto you, That if you will have us join to you, your
 “Way

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“ Way must be to join to the Lord, repent of the Wickedness that you have
“ done, and return to the Lord God, and put away the Evil of your Doings,
“ and cast out from among you the Proud, and the Drunkards, the Swearers,
“ the Murderers, the Adulterers and Whoremongers, and all other Filthi-
“ ness of Flesh and Spirit that is among you, and then clothe yourselves with
“ Meekness, and Patience, as the Church of Christ was in the Days of the
“ Apostles, and then if we will not join with you, and come to your Church,
“ let our Blame be upon our own Heads; for till then, although you call
“ yourselves *Christians*, you are but Antichrist's Servants, that oppose Christ
“ in this Day of his Appearance. And though you may compel by Force
“ and Cruelty many to join with you in Words, you do but make them ten-
“ fold more Children of the Devil, and a thousand-fold more in a Capacity
“ to do you Mischief; and truly such Christians you have enough already;
“ and this was the Way that your Fore-fathers walked in, whom God over-
“ threw, and razed their Name out of the Land of the Living.
“ Therefore boast not yourselves over us, as if the Lord had forsaken us, be-
“ cause we have none in the Earth to take our Part or plead our Cause; or
“ as if your Day should never have an End, or as if the Lord had no Regard
“ to his suffering People, nor took no Notice of your Cruelty towards
“ them; for certainly when we have filled up the Measure of the Sufferings of
“ Christ, that is yet to be filled up, and you have filled up the Measure of
“ your Cruelty and Hard-heartedness, the Lord will divide between Cattle
“ and Cattle, and you shall not escape his fierce Vengeance and fiery Indigna-
“ tion; therefore in Love to your Souls do we send this, that you might be
“ warned before it is too late, *for the Wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all*
“ *that forget God*, as the Scripture plainly declareth, and we cannot but be
“ plain with you. And therefore fear the Lord, ye Rulers, and give Glory
“ to his Name, for the Lord's Day is at hand that shall burn as an Oven, and
“ the Wicked shall be as Thorns cast into it; we wish you well, and could
“ rejoyce to see you in that Path that leads you to God's Kingdom, that your
“ Souls might find Rest, that the Light of the Lord might be your Leader,
“ and you might be guided up to God, is the Desire of them who in Scorn
“ are called

From the Goal the 22d of
the 5th Month, 1664.

“ QUAKERS.”

Commitments
from the
Meeting.

On the 31st of the Month called July, *W. Armorer* came again to the Meeting, and took *Bridget Smith*, *Elizabeth Bradbridge*, *Anne Walsen*, *Anne Sharp*, *Elizabeth Wright*, *Elizabeth Dee the Younger*, and *Sarah Austell*, and caused his Clerk immediately to make their *Mittimus* to the House of Correction. Then he went, and knocked at *Thomas Curtis's* Door, which the Maid being afraid to open, he picked the Lock and went in, and finding there *Joseph Coale*, one of the Family, who had taken Physick and kept in his Chamber, he pulled him down Stairs, and asked him, *whether he would take the Oath of Allegiance?* He then ordered a Line or two to be added to the Women's *Mittimus*, and sent him together with them to the House of Correction.

Illegal Com-
mitments.

On the 2d of the Month called August, he sent *William Yeate*, *Anne Ball*, *Mary Slade*, *Mary Emerton*, *Elizabeth Lovell*, *Katharine Edsoll*, *Ellen Binfield*, and *Mary Richardson*, from the Meeting to the House of Correction: On the 14th of the same, finding but three Persons there above sixteen Years of Age, although that Number was not prohibited by the Act, yet he ordered them, viz. *Benjamin Cole*, *John Trayard*, and *Hannah Webb*, to the House of Correction. On the 25th he sent for those three and *Joseph Coale*, who being brought before him and *Thomas Seikes* Mayor, were asked, *whether they would take the Oath of Allegiance?* And after many hard and threatening Speeches were committed to the County Goal. The same Day the Women were sent for, fined, and sent back to the House of Correction for three Months. And on the 28th, finding but four Women at the Meeting, he sent them to the same Place;

Place; he also struck a Lad, under Age, with a great Cane, and pulled him by the Nose, so that his Nose was much swelled. *Thomas Curtis* and his Wife being close shut up in Prison, his Trade and House were under the Care of a Man and Maid-servant. *W. Armorer* had declared his Resolution to send them to Goal, and nail up the Doors, that no more Meetings might be held there: Accordingly, on the 13th of September he sent two Officers with a Warrant, to take the Man-servant, *Robert Pocock*, out of the Shop, who being brought before him and the Mayor, was asked, whether he would take the Oath of Allegiance? *Pocock* answered, I am a peaceable Man, and have done no Wrong, and dare not break Christ's Command, but can promise to be true to the King, and will be content to suffer the same Punishment, if I break my Promise, as they who Swear and break it. So they sent him to Prison, but could not accomplish their Design of preventing the Continuance of Meetings there.

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1664.
A Lad, cruelly used.
Armorer's Proceeding at T. Curtis's House.

On the 18th of the same Month he took at a Meeting, *Christopher Cheesman*, *Anne Sharp*, *Hannah Webb*, *Bridget Smith*, *Hannah Emerton*, and *Judith Smith*; these were fined by the Mayor and himself 12 d. each, and sent to Prison, but were released the next Day.

At Newbury Sessions on the 3d of October, about fifty Men Prisoners, and some of their Wives, were brought to the Bar, and indicted for obstinately refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, which one *Champion*, the Clerk, swore had been tendred them at Abington. They pleaded not guilty, and desired a Copy of the Indictment, which with some Difficulty they obtained. After them six others, more lately committed, were indicted, and together with the rest, remanded to Prison till another Sessions.

Newbury Sessions.

On the 6th of the same Month, he sent from the Meeting to Prison with a Mittimus for one Night, *Anne Sharp*, *Frances Kent*, *Elizabeth Streater*, *Anne Smith*, and *Sarah Binfield*. While he was in the Meeting-room, a Neighbour's Wife seeing the Door of *T. Curtis's* House open, locked it and took away the Key: Thus being disappointed of his Design to search the House, *W. Armorer* fell to Swearing like a Madman, and called for an Instrument to break open the Door: But was dissuaded from his Purpose by those who were about him.

Fury of W. Armorer.

On the 23d he came with his usual Fury to the Meeting, and took *Christopher Cheesman*, *Reynold Avery*, *Thomas Hind*, *Mary Wrenn*, *Elizabeth Dee* Widow, *Jane Hussey*, *Judith Smith*, *Katharine Edsoll*, and *Elizabeth Lavell* the Younger; he committed *Christopher Cheesman* for the third Offence in order to Banishment, and sent the rest to the House of Correction for forty eight Hours; one of whom was *Thomas Curtis's* Maid-servant. So that the whole Family was now in Prison.

T. Curtis's whole Family in Prison.

On the 6th of November, taking a View of the Meeting, he swore they were a goodly Company, and caused the Children to be pulled out, pricking some of them with a Staff, having a sharp Iron at the End, so that their Flesh was very sore and black: After which he sent *Thomas Hind*, *Anne Harrison*, *Rachel Cope*, *Hannah Emerton*, *Mary Saunders*, *Alice Millard*, and *Mary Winter*, to the House of Correction for three Days.

Children abused.

On the 1st of December he came again, and caused the Children to be pulled out of the Meeting, threatening them with Whipping; then he sent *Bridget Smith* and *Margery Richardson* to Goal for the third Offence, and *Anne Hatt*, *Margery Symonds*, *Grace Hutchins*, and *Jane Hussey*, to the House of Correction for twenty four Hours, ordering the Goaler to put them all in one Room, and suffer no Body to come at them, and that no Provision should be brought them but what was taken in at the Grates. He also caused their Papers to be taken from them, on a false Pretence of their writing to the King and Council.

Several sent to Prison.

We come next to the Proceedings at the Quarter Sessions held in Reading on the 10th, 11th, and 12th of the Month called January, 1664.

Sessions at Reading.

On the 10th a Paper was sent to the Justices by *Joseph Coale*, one of the Prisoners, being as follows,

Friends!

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A Paper sent
to the Justices
by J. Coale.

Friends! "IT will be a good and precious Thing, to have the Fear of God before your
" Eyes, and therein to act in all Things toward all People; and then you will
" act in Righteousness, and do the Thing that is just, if in the Fear of the
" Lord you stand, and are exercised therein in your Proceedings, for it is
" that which makes Men honourable, and in Ages to come to be had in Re-
" nown by the Generation of the Righteous; and the Memory of such who in
" the Fear of the Lord do act in their Day in Justice and Righteousness
" shall live for ever, when the Name of the Wicked shall rot, and be blotted
" out from under Heaven, who have had no Regard to the Fear of God,
" neither have Equity and Justice had Place in their Hearts, and such shall
" eat the Fruit of their own Doings, and receive a just Reward from the
" Hand of the Lord according to their Work, in the Day when God shall
" judge the Secrets of all Men's Hearts, and search out the hidden Things of
" Darkness, and then shall every Man be rewarded according to the Deeds
" done in the Body, whether they be good, or whether they be evil.
" Wherefore, *Friends*, the Lord hath put it into my Heart to write unto
" you, and that I may be clear in his Sight, and that the Neglect of such a
" Thing may not be upon my Conscience as Disobedience, I say unto you,
" Be considerate and sober in your Minds, and calmly and seriously weigh
" what you are going about, and let not Rashness and Envy overstay you,
" because that the God of Heaven takes Notice of your Proceedings, and
" your Actions are registred in a Book of Remembrance: But let Justice
" be your Rule, and let the Law of Equity be your Guide; let the Light of
" Jesus in your Hearts and Consciences be your Counsellor; because if you
" start aside from that, and act not according thereunto, you cannot please
" God, nor do the Thing that is justifiable in his Sight; but you will bring
" Guilt upon your Consciences which no Man upon the Earth shall ever ac-
" quit you of; and the Sentence of Condemnation you will certainly feel, by
" the Spirit of the living God, which judgeth righteously without Respect of
" Persons: And to lie under that Guilt and Sentence from the Lord in your
" own Hearts and Consciences will be sad and heavy indeed; for a wounded
" Conscience who can bear? If the Lord wound Men inwardly in their Con-
" sciences, because of Transgression against his righteous Law of Equity, who
" can bind them up or heal them? Will the saying, *We have a Law, and by*
" *our Law, he (the Just) ought to die or suffer*, will this ease them? O no!
" that will not remove that Weight and Burden from off their Consciences,
" which they do bring upon them by acting and walking contrary to the
" Light or Law of God in their own Hearts, and because of this, the Lord
" often brings Shame and Confusion upon Men; and Dishonour and a Curse
" in all Ages hath attended and followed those that have been found in that
" Way of afflicting, troubling, disquieting and persecuting innocent and harm-
" less People, because of the Exercise of their Conscience toward God, and
" for their Obedience unto his Requirings. And do you think to gain Ho-
" nour if ye proceed against us in afflicting of us, because we cannot trans-
" gress the royal Law written in our Hearts? I tell you no: For we are a
" People that desire to spend our Days here in this World in the Fear of God,
" and to follow him in all Things which he doth require of us, to keep his
" Commandments and his Statutes, and to worship him according to his
" Mind, in *Spirit and in Truth*: And this is all we desire, which is our Right
" and Privilege, as we are free-born People in this our native Country, that
" we may have Liberty so to do; but if for so doing, and nothing else, we
" must suffer, as ancient Christians have done, we are content, knowing that
" the Lord will plead our Cause, and will care for us; and we cannot deny
" him to please Men, but must to our Lives End serve and obey him, and
" wait upon him and worship him in Spirit and Truth, having engaged our
" Hearts so to do, in that he hath made known himself to us, and by his
" eternal Power redeemed us out of the World and the sinful Ways thereof,
" and

“ and shed abroad his Love in our Hearts ; and we are persuaded, and do know
 “ of a Truth, that the Lord hath been and is with us in this our Way
 “ which we now walk in ; and can you in Reason and Equity expect, that
 “ we should deny that Way in which we have found the Lord to satisfy and
 “ refresh our Souls, and to make our Hearts glad ? Or is it doing as you
 “ would be done by ? Would you think it right to be persecuted and af-
 “ flicted for walking in that Way which you are persuaded in your selves you
 “ ought to walk in ? If not, do you fulfil the royal Law, which is to do to
 “ others as you would be done unto ? Wherefore consider betimes, and have
 “ not an Hand in afflicting innocent People because of their Consciences : But
 “ break off your Sins by Righteousness, and your Iniquities by shewing Mercy
 “ to the Poor in Spirit, and afflicted People of God, who suffer at this Day
 “ for no other Thing, but for keeping the Commands of the Lord Jesus
 “ Christ, and for his Worship : For what is the Matter ? Who have we hurt
 “ or wronged in any Thing, that here is such furious and unchristian-like
 “ Proceedings against us ? And if our Adversaries have nothing against us, but
 “ because of our Obedience to the Law, and Worship of our God, is this
 “ such a Crime at this Day, that honest People for so doing should be so
 “ eagerly and violently proceeded against, and that Snares and Traps should
 “ be laid to catch and ensnare them ? Well, the Lord takes Notice of these
 “ Things, and he will arise for his own Name and Seed's Sake, before whom
 “ the Mountains must bow and tremble, and the high Places of the Earth
 “ which stand in his Way shall be removed, and the Lord God will cut his
 “ own Way through them, before whom all Nations are but as the Drop of
 “ a Bucket, and as the small Dust of the Balance, and they that strive against
 “ him cannot be blessed. And therefore be wise and considerate, ye Rulers
 “ of the Earth, lest ye be found opposing of, and striving against that Eternal
 “ God that gives us all Life, and Breath, and Being here in the World,
 “ who will be too strong for you, if you shall think in your Hearts, to stop
 “ and limit his Appearance in the Hearts of his People, and bind the Con-
 “ science (in which it is his Right and Prerogative to rule, and no Man's
 “ upon the Earth) from following the Lord in what his Light leads and
 “ draws it unto, which will be Usurpation and great Sin charged upon you
 “ in the Day of the Lord, when you shall come before the Throne of his
 “ Justice and give an Account unto him. Wherefore, *kiss the Son*, stoop and
 “ bow down unto the Light of God's Son which appears in your Hearts, and
 “ convinceth you of Sin, lest the Anger and Indignation of the Lord be
 “ kindled, and flame and break out like devouring Fire, and burn your own
 “ Hearts so as it can never be quenched.

“ Here are many of us Prisoners in this Goal, and have been long, which
 “ is not unknown to you, both Men and Women, and almost some whole
 “ Families, and several aged People, many, because we cannot break the
 “ Command of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, who hath said unto his
 “ Followers, *Swear not at all*, because he leads them and keeps them out of
 “ Strife, and out of Sin and Wickedness, into Love, Peace and Truth, from
 “ which Mankind was degenerated when the Swearing came in, which was to
 “ bind the Conscience, because they were gone and erred from the Love and
 “ Truth of God in the Heart, which Christ our Saviour restores into again, and
 “ says unto such, *Swear not*, for Truth binds them, and their *Yea* is *Yea*, and
 “ their *Nay* is *Nay*, and because we cannot break this Command of Christ,
 “ we are ensnared, and do suffer at this Day, and many may be exposed to
 “ utter Ruin in this World because thereof, and the Guilt of the Ruin of in-
 “ nocent People and Families may come upon you, if in a rash and un-
 “ christian-like Spirit ye run on thus against them, which may be in your
 “ Power to prevent, the Sufferings and Cries of them will enter into the
 “ Ears of the Lord God of Sabbath, who will hear and have Regard there-
 “ unto, if Men do not regard, and will recompense those that trouble his
 “ into their own Bosoms.

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“ And others here are that suffer for worshipping God in Spirit and Truth
“ according to the Scriptures, who cannot forsake the ancient Doctrine and
“ Practice of the Apostles, who exhorted true Christians not to forsake the
“ assembling themselves together, and we cannot but perform that Christian
“ and innocent Duty, for which Occasion is sought against us, by such as have
“ given way to that Spirit of Enmity which always appeared against the
“ Way and Worship of the true God, which such that are joined unto, will
“ feel their Reward and Portion with; and their inhuman Proceedings may
“ in Time be more fully and manifestly declared to the World.
“ Now are these Things worthy of such strait Bonds, and close Imprison-
“ ment, even to the endangering the Lives of your peaceable Neighbours,
“ who have not done any Man wrong, but because of the Tenderneſs of their
“ Conſciences towards God they muſt be thus uſed, ſo that hereby at leaſt
“ their Health, as to the outward Man, comes to be impaired, by reaſon of
“ keeping in, and being kept from their outward honeſt Callings and Em-
“ ployments in the Creation; ſo that theſe Things tend to the Deſtruction of
“ Men, Women and Children, and civil Commerce among Men, and only
“ becauſe of their faithful Obedience to the Lord, in what they are perſuaded
“ in their Hearts unto by his eternal Spirit, and Conſtancy in his Way, which
“ they can never deny, whatever they ſuffer in this World; neither can any
“ of theſe Things, I am perſuaded, ſeparate us, who have truly and expe-
“ rimentally taſted thereof, from the Love of God which we feel in Chriſt
“ Jeſus, in whom we have the Assurance thereof unto our Souls. Where-
“ fore I ſay, O ye Men in Power and Authority in the World, be cool
“ in your Minds, and let the Cauſe of the oppreſſed and afflicted People of
“ God be pondered by you, and take heed of turning your Hand againſt
“ them, for if you do make that your Work to root out and deſtroy them, it
“ will be too hard for you, and your Eyes ſhall never ſee the Accompliſh-
“ ment thereof, but if ſome or many of us do ſeal our Teſtimony with our
“ deareſt Lives and Blood, yet will the Lord raiſe up more in the ſame Power
“ and Spirit, to bear witneſs unto his Name in the ſame Way wherein we
“ ſerve him, and you will be found fighting againſt God, if Juſtice and
“ Mercy be not ſhewed to them, and ye ſhall not obtain Mercy and Favour
“ at the Hand of the Lord, which that you may is my Deſire, who deſire
“ the Good and Salvation of your immortal Souls, and not your Deſtruction,
“ and am a true Friend to Juſtice and Righteouſneſs, and thoſe who are
“ exerciſed therein, and ſuffer with the deſpiſed People of God, for the Teſti-
“ mony of a good Conſcience.

From the Goal in Reading, the 16th
of the 11th Month, 1664.

“ * J. COALE.”

Trial of 50
Prisoners.

On the 11th, about fifty Prisoners were brought to the Bar, and an Indict-
ment read againſt them for wilfully reſuſing the Oath at Abington the 12th of
July, to which at Newbury Sessions they had pleaded *not guilty*. The Evidences
were Sir William Armorer, and Champion, Clerk of the Peace, who ſwore that
the Oath had been tendered and read to them all at Abington Sessions. The
Council for the King inſiſted much on the Credit and Reputation of the Wit-
neſſes, telling the Jury, *they muſt either bring the Prisoners in guilty, or they*
would make Sir William Armorer, and the Clerk, as perjured Perſons. Neverthe-
leſs the Jury, on ſtrict Enquiry, perceiving that the Tender of the Oath was
irregular, and Champion himſelf acknowledging, that he could not tell whether
it was read to the Prisoners before or after they were called over, brought in
their Verdict *not guilty*. So the Court broke up, and many of the Prisoners,
diſcharged by the Jury, went away, as did alſo ſeveral of the more moderate
Juſtices.

* This J. Coale continued long in Priſon, and died there in 1670; as did alſo Dorothy Clark.

Justices. But *W. Armorer*, and some others, staying behind, ordered the Goaler to call back the *Quakers*, which he did, and *Thomas Curtis*, *George Lamboll*, and their Wives, with three others appeared, the rest being gone: The Justices threatened to fine the Goaler, saying, *Did not we give you Orders to stay them?* But the Goaler answered, *As soon as I heard your Orders, I ran down the Stairs, upon my Faith, but they were gone.*

T. Curtis said, I suppose they would not have gone away, had they known your Order, but being cleared by the Jury, they thought it sufficient: And I my self was gone, not intending to come again, but when they told me I was called for, I came, for I am not ashamed to shew my Face, nor afraid of any Thing that I have done: And I know, *William Armorer's* Man *Venter* is Warrant enough to take me at any Time.

Judge. *Though the Jury did clear you of that Indictment, yet they could not clear you of your Obedience.*

Then the Clerk reading over their Names, they called for *Thomas Heifield*.

T. C. That is a Man that has served the King faithfully, and has many Cuts in his Head, and Wounds about his Body, that he received in the King's Army: Yet he is regarded no more than others, though he fought and ventured his Life for the King: But being come now to make Conscience of an Oath, must be ensnared with the Oath of Allegiance.

Then *Anne Curtis* was called.

T. C. Here is another, whose * Father laid down his Life, and suffered Death for the Service of the King, yet she also must be ensnared with the Oath.

Then they called for the *Statute Book*.

T. C. We see your Snare well enough: It is not the Part of Men of Honour, to seek to ensnare those whom the Jury have cleared, but these Things will appear as Blots in your *Escutcheons*: We do believe you aim to ensnare us; and 'tis our Estates you seek after. It is well if some of you have not begg'd them already.

Then *Proctor*, the Councillor, stood up in a great Rage, and bid the Clerk read the Oath to them.

T. C. Be not so hasty, for thou didst but a litte Time since charge these two Men (pointing to *Armorer* and the Clerk) with being perjur'd, for thou told'st the Jury, That either they must bring us in guilty, or else these Men were perjured. Thou need'st not be so fierce now, for the Time was when thou wast as fierce in *Oliver Cromwell's* Days.

Then the Judge bid the Clerk read the Oath, which being done, he asked *T. C.* if he heard it? Who answered, *Yes*. So they held the Bible to him.

T. C. I could read you a better Lesson in that Book; holding the Bible in his Hand.

They bid him say after the Clerk, who read the Oath, which he did, till he came to that Clause, *I do swear, &c.* Then he said, But I cannot Swear, but what I have said I do believe, and question not but I shall prove as good a Subject to the King as some of you.

Then *George Lamboll* was called: They asked him, *whether he would take the Oath of Allegiance*; He answered, *as to the Oath of Obedience he could promise very much, and should keep his Promise.*

Then *Sarah* his Wife was called. They asked her, *whether she would take the Oath*? She answered, *at present she was not satisfied that she might safely do it; or to that Purpose.*

The other three, *viz. Thomas Tudway, John Paine, and James Marloe*, were asked the same Question. *T. Tudway* queried, *whether it were better to obey God or Man*? They said, *That was not the Question.*

Then

* Her Father was a Magistrate of *Bristol*, put to Death there for his Loyalty to the King.

BERK-
SHIRE.
1664.

T. Heifield
a Royalist.

Tender of the
Oath to *T.*
Curtis.

Tender of the
Oath to *G.*
Lamboll and
his Wife,

and others.

BERK-
SHIRE.
1664.

Tender of the
Oath to A.
Curtis.

Oath tendred
to divers
others.

Commitments
in order to
Banishment.

Commitments
from W. Ar-
morer's
House.

Then *Anne Curtis* was called to the Bar. One of the Justices said, *Come, Nan, I know you will take it.*

A. C. Yes, if thou, or any one, could convince me that I might lawfully do it, and not break Christ's Command, who hath said, *Swear not at all.*

One of the Justices said, *But the Apostle Paul said, That an Oath for Confirmation endeth Strife.* She answered, *that Christ, the everlasting Oath of God, who puts an End to Strife, himself I know, saith, Swear not at all.*

William Armorer said, *This is the old Tone.*

A. C. It was before thou wast, and will be when thou hast no Being.

The Justices bid her answer directly, *whether she would take the Oath or no?* She replied, *I shall give no other Answer than I have done.* So the Goaler took her away.

Next Day, the 12th of the Month, *Joseph Coale, Robert Pocock, Benjamin Cole, William Yeate, Richard Green, and John Tray*, had the Oath of Allegiance tendred them in Court, and refusing to take it, were sent to Goal. Also *Christopher Cheesman, Anne Sharp, Bridget Smith, and Margery Richardson*, were at the same Sessions brought to the Town-hall, having been taken at a Meeting, and committed for a third Offence, in order to Banishment. But the Evidence appearing to the grand Jury insufficient, they did not find the Bill of Indictment. Nevertheless the Court sent the Prisoners back to Goal; and so the Sessions ended.

On the 22d *William Armorer* sent *Joane Wilesby, Mary Winter, and Mary Richardson*, from the Meeting to the House of Correction, for three Days, for a second Offence, as he called it. At the same Time he sent *William Tomson, Leonard Key, Anthony Sadler, Thomas Speed, and John Boulton*, to Prison, by his Servant and the Goaler's Man, without a *Mittimus*. Next Day they were brought to his House, had the Oath of Allegiance tendred them, and were re-committed.

Of those whom *W. Armorer* had committed to Prison, *William Tomson, and Walter Emerton* died Prisoners this Year. As did also not long before, *William Matthews*.

1665.

26 Sent to
Prison and
continued
long.

20 Persons
premunired.

Two banished.

Oath tendred
to R. Wilson.

Violent Pro-
ceedings of
Armorer.

ANNO 1665.

Before the next Sessions held at *Newbury*, in the Month called *April* this Year, *Armorer* had committed to Prison from Meetings at *Reading*, six and twenty Persons: These were most of them the same who had been set at Liberty at the last Sessions: They were continued from Sessions to Assizes, and Assizes to Sessions, till the 9th of the Month called *January* following; when, at the Sessions in *Reading*, twenty of them had Sentence of *Premunire* passed upon them, and were remanded to Goal.

At the same Sessions *Mary Winter, and Judith Smith*, convicted of meeting the third Time, received Sentence of Banishment to *Berbadoes*, and *Elizabeth Tudway*, convicted of the same, being under Covert, was sentenced to one Years Imprisonment. *Anne Curtis, and Sarah Lamboll*, were indicted for refusing the Oath, but their Trial deferred.

At this Sessions *Robert Wilson* was indicted for opening his Shop on a Fast-day; but, when in Court, that Cause was dropt, and the Oath of Allegiance tendred him; for refusing of which, he also was sent to Goal.

On the 14th *Armorer's* Servant came into the Meeting, went out again, and shut the Door after him, which having a Spring Lock, catch'd and shut him out. His Master followed him, and in a Fury had the Door broke open, and set a Guard on those that were met: He then broke open five Doors of *T. Curtis's* House, under Pretence of searching for Writings: After which he went Home, and sent for *Joseph Phipps, Henry Adams, and John Thorne*, who coming before him with their Hats on, he ordered his Servant to take and fill them with Water, which his Servant being backward to do, he kicked and forced him to it: Being filled, he ordered the Constable to put them so on their Heads, but he would not,

but

but threw out the Water, and gave them their Hats again. He committed those three to the House of Correction for six Months, and *Anne Webb* for three Months, and a few Days after recalled that *Mittimus*, and sent another for detaining her six Months, an arbitrary Proceeding, but like the Man, a violent Persecutor, yet irreligious and profane, of which take the following Instance: When in his usual manner he was railing against the Quakers, and telling about them Stories unlike a Man of Gravity and Understanding; one of them, *Elizabeth Tudway*, advising him to take heed of his Words, and putting him in mind, that there would come a Day wherein he must give an Account of his Actions: He answered, *Ay, you shall see at the Day of Judgment, whose Arse will be blackest, yours or mine*: An Expression, denoting a profane and obdurate Mind, void of Remorse or Sense of that divine Justice, which sooner or later, will overtake those who pervert Judgment, and delight in oppressing the Innocent by tyrannical and arbitrary Measures; and which may excite in the Reader a just Idea of the Man that used it, and of his Qualifications for a Post of such Repute and Dignity as that of a Justice of the Peace.

BERK-
SHIRE.
1665.

An arbitrary
Act.

Profane Ex-
pression.

ANNO 1666.

1666.

On the 15th of the Month called *April*, *William Armorer*, and Justice *Dolby*, came to the Meeting at *Reading*, where they found *Robert Paine*, *Anne Hatt*, *Hannab Emerton*, *Elizabeth Tudway*, *Mary Webb*, *Mary Kent*, and *Sarah Kent*, whom they ordered a Constable to carry to the Counter. This being done, they went to their Worship, it being on the First-day of the Week. After Sermon they sent for the Prisoners, and committed *Hannab Emerton* to the House of Correction for six Months, and *Robert Paine* for three Months. They also sent *Elizabeth Tudway* to Goal for twelve Months, and *Anne Hatt* for six Months. The other three being under sixteen Years of Age, were dismissed with Threats of being fined.

Several im-
prisoned.

On the 19th of the Month called *August* 1666, after above four Months Imprisonment, *Anne Hatt*, through a close Confinement in the Heat of Summer, fell sick, and died in the Prison, leaving behind her this Character, *That she had born a faithful Testimony for the Lord and his Truth, in which she walked in Gravity, Sobriety, and the Fear of the Lord, and ended her Days in Peace with him.*

Death of
A. Hatt.

Her Charac-
ter.

On the 24th *Anne Curtis*, and *Sarah Lamboll*, were brought to the Sessions at *Newbury*, but their Trial put off by the Justices, who told them, *the King's Evidence were not ready*. However, *Armorer*, their professed Adversary, not being present, the Justices granted them their Liberty upon promise of appearing at the next Sessions. So they went home to *Reading*, and *Anne Curtis* went the next Day to visit some Relations at *Bristol*.

A. Curtis and
S. Lamboll
released,

This displeased *Armorer*, who presently sent the Goaler's Man to fetch them to Prison again: The Man told him, that the Justices had given them Liberty till next Sessions: To which *Armorer* replied, *What have the Justices to do with my Prisoners?* and threatened to lay the Man by the Heels, if he did not obey his Order. So the Man fetched *Sarah Lamboll* back to Prison. After some Time *Anne Curtis* being returned from *Bristol*, went to *Armorer*, who threatened to send her to her Husband then in Prison, but did not.

but recom-
mited by Ar-
morer.

On the 19th of the Month called *June*, *John Witham* Under Sheriff of the County, and *Thomas Rosse*, the Duke of *Monmouth's* Tutor, came to the Goal and called for *Thomas Curtis*, and *George Lamboll*, and told them, *they had a Warrant from the King to seize their Estates*, and forthwith they, with one *John Thorp*, went into the said Prisoners Chambers, and seized their Books, Papers, and Writings, and 150 *l.* in Money of *Thomas Curtis's*: Then they locked them out of their Rooms, and went to their Houses, and took an Inventory of what they could find, but on their Promise to be answerable for the Goods, they did not remove them.

Effects of T.
Curtis and
G. Lamboll,
seized in the
Goal.

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1666.

On the same Day, *Anne Curtis*, by *Armorer's* Warrant, was carried again to Goal: About two Months after, he sent for her and told her, the Gentlemen concerned in her Husband's Estate desired him to set her at Liberty, and gave her the following Discharge, viz.

“ Burgus de Reading in Com. Berks.

“ To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal for the said Borough, and to his Deputy and Deputies there, Greeting.

Discharge of
A. Curtis.

“ THESE are in the Name of the King's most excellent Majesty, to charge and command you upon Sight hereof, to set at Liberty and free the Body of *Anne Curtis*, Wife of *Thomas Curtis*, of this Borough, *Woolendraper*, out of your Custody, and from her Imprisonment. Dated under my Hand and Seal this 22d Day of August, Anno Dom. 1666.

“ *W. Armorer.*”

Girls under
Age sent to
Goal.

In the mean Time he had taken *Joseph Phipps*, and *Hannah Kent*, at a Meeting, and sent them to the House of Correction; and two others, taken at the same Time, he committed to the County Goal. He took also three Girls, under sixteen Years of Age, viz. *Lydia Hersant*, *Mary Kent*, and *Sarah Kent*, fined them 1 s. each, and sent them to Goal, where they lay a long Time.

On the 16th of the Month called *January* following, at the Sessions in *Reading*, *Sarah Lamboll* was called to the Bar, had the Oath of Allegiance tendered her, and was remanded to Prison.

Trial of J.
Phipps on the
Act for Ba-
nishment.

On the same Day was a Trial of *Joseph Phipps*, for the third Offence, on the Act of Banishment: A *Quaker* who had been just before tried, was acquitted: Whereupon the Court discharged that Jury, and empanelled another: *Armorer* saying to the Bayliffs, Go out and pick a Jury, you know there are honest Men enough in the Town. One of the Bayliffs answered, Yes, Sir William, I'll fit you. Another Jury being sworn, *Phipps* was set to the Bar, and his Indictment read, to which he had before pleaded *not guilty*. The Prisoner insisted, that there were not five Persons of sixteen years of Age at the Meeting: *Edward Dolby* answered, If there were but one of that Age, yet if there were five present, he would send that one to Prison as a Breaker of the Law, for though the rest were not punishable by that Act, yet they would serve to make up the Number. This unequal Construction of the Law was prest upon the Jury; as was also the Confession of one of the Prisoners, that they were met to seek the Lord. And when one of them asked, whether to seek the Lord were a Crime worthy of Banishment? the Judge answered, Yes.

Fury kept all
Night.

The Jury went out, and tarrying long, the Court sent for them, and threatned such as favoured the Prisoners Cause; but they could not agree. So they were ordered to be kept all Night without Fire or Candle, &c. and that no Person should come at them till they were agreed.

Sentence of
Banishment
passed on J.
Phipps.

Next Morning the Court sat again, and sent to know, whether the Jury were yet agreed? They answered, No. Yet after some time, two of the dissatisfied began to comply, and some crying, A Verdict, a Verdict, they came into Court. The Court asking, if they were agreed? One of the Jury answered, I am not satisfied: *Armorer* replied, You shall be satisfied. So the Foreman said, Guilty; though four of the Jury had not agreed to the Verdict: However the Judge passed Sentence on *Phipps*, That he should be transported to some of his Majesty's Plantations, there to remain seven Years. Under which Sentence he was returned to Prison, and lay there till discharged by the King's Letters patent, about six Years after.

On

CHAP. 3. of the People called QUAKERS.

27

On the 27th of the Month called *January*, *William Armorer* coming early to the Meeting, found only four young Maids, viz. *Hannah Kent*, *Sarah Binfield*, *Elizabeth Whitebart*, and *Anne* her Sister, and said, *Here's a goodly Company*: He then commanded one of his Servants to fetch some *Water*; which being brought, he threw with great Violence in their Faces, till one of them was almost suffocated: Having executed this Barbarity, he turned them wet out of the Meeting, and went away.

BERK-
SHIRE.
1666.

Cruelty of
Armorer.

On the 17th of the Month called *March*, he came, with *Thomas Coates* Mayor, to the Meeting, and sent five Persons to the House of Correction, viz. *Henry Adams* for the third Offence, *Elizabeth Whitebart*, and *Mary Webb*, for six Months, *Sarah Binfield* for three Months, and *Elizabeth Tudway*, under fourteen Years of Age, till she should pay 1 s. for Absence from the Church. At the same Time he went up to *Anne Curtis*, who was sick in her Chamber, protesting he would send her to Goal, because the Meeting was continued at her House: She answered, *the House was her Husband's, and he might do what he would with it*, asking, *whether they themselves would admit their Wives to contradict their Husbands*. At length he ordered a Constable to carry her to Goal; but in Regard of her Sicknefs, the Constable did not obey him. Next Day Sir *William* sent for the Constable, and sharply reprimanded him, giving him a Warrant to carry *Anne Curtis* to Goal upon her former Commitment, of which himself, as is before shewn, had discharged her under his Hand and Seal. Thus arbitrarily did he act, fearing no Controul.

In this Year *William Dobson* of *Slade End* in *Brightwell* Parish, for Tithes of about 4 l. 10 s. Value, had Goods taken from him worth 40 l.

A. Curtis
sent to Goal
when sick.

Excessive
Distress for
Tithes.

ANNO 1667.

1667.

The aforesaid *William Dobson*, for refusing to pay Tithes, was imprisoned at *Reading*, and thence removed by *Habeas Corpus* to the Fleet in *London*, where he lay several Months.

W. Dobson
imprisoned
for Tithes.

Oliver Sansom, for a Demand of 6 l. 8 s. for Tithes, suffered Distress of his Cows, Sheep, and Money, to the Value of 30 l. at the Suit of *James Anderton*, Priest of *Boxford*, a violent Persecutor, who told *Oliver*, that if the King would grant a Law, he would be the first Man that would put a Faggot to his Tail: He procured the said *Oliver's* Excommunication, and told the People they must have no Dealings with him, forbade the Miller to grind his Corn, and threatened to prosecute a Man in the spiritual Court for working for him.

Suffering of
O. Sansom.

On the 14th of the Month called *July* this Year, *W. Armorer*, with his Man, came to the Meeting, the Man looking in, went out again, and pulled the Door, which having a spring Lock, shut him out: His Master finding the Door locked, called for a Sledge to break it open; but one within opened it, saying, *I open the Door that thou mayst see our Innocence, and that we are not plotting: If we were, we would not have opened it*. He answered, *If you had not, I would have broke it open*. His Clerk took the Names of nine Persons, of whom *Richard Hutchins*, *John Littleworth*, *Martina Cheesman*, *Frances Greenway*, and *Elizabeth Booth*, were sent to the House of Correction for three Months: *Mary Coale* (whose Husband was then in Prison under Sentence of *Premunire*) for six Months, and *Anne Sharp*, *Anne Kent*, and *Elizabeth Tudway*, were committed on the third Offence in order to Banishment.

Commitments
in order to
Banishment.

On the 16th at *Abington* Sessions, the last three were indicted, and pleaded not guilty; but their Trial was postponed till another Sessions.

Henry Adams, on a like Indictment, was tried; but no Record of his first or second Offence could be produced; nor did any Witness appear to prove a third Offence; so that the Jury brought him in not guilty. This Verdict not pleasing the Court, the Jury were sent back, and by *W. Armorer's* Influence and Threats, who swore that the Records, though lost, were true, some of the Jury brought in a contrary Verdict, with which the rest for Fear complied: Upon which the Prisoner was remanded to Goal, but no Sentence pronounced against

Trial of Hen-
ry Adams.

The Jury
over-aw'd.

BERK-
SHIRE.
1667.

against him in Court. When he afterward asked the Goaler, *what Order he had concerning him?* His Answer was, *Harry, thee art for Transportation: They have done it since among themselves.* Thus he continued Prisoner about five Years after, till released by the King's Letters patent in 1672.

1669.

ANNO 1669.

Imprisonment
of Oliver
Sansom.

On the last Day of the Month called *February* this Year, *Oliver Sansom* was committed to Prison on a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo*, at the Suit of *James Anderton*, Priest of *Boxford*, for Tithes, and continued there till released by the King's Patent in 1672.

1670.

ANNO 1670.

Prosecutions
on the Con-
venticle Act.

Many were the Prosecutions in this County, on the Conventicle Act, which passed this Year, and animated the *Informers* afresh. On the 19th of the Month called *May*, two of them informed *Humphry Hide*, a Justice, of a Meeting in the House of *Adam Laurence* at *Charlow*, that they saw there Nine Persons beside the Family, but all silent. Upon this he fined the said *Laurence* 20*l.* and 5*s.* for his Wife: *Richard Vokins*, *Thomas Clark*, *John Willis*, and *John Geering*, 5*s.* each for themselves or their Wives: And Distress of their Goods was made accordingly.

John Stevens was by the same Justice sent to the County Goal: His *Mittimus* was in the following Form, viz.

“ To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal at Reading in the County of Berks, or to his sufficient Deputy there.

John Stevens
his Mittimus.

“ I H A V E sent unto you the Body of *John Stevens* of *Uffington*, a professed *Quaker*, who for many Months has had great Meetings at his House, but the Officers of the Town, upon *Whitsunday* the 22d of *May* last, set a Guard upon the House to keep the Company out, but they would not disperse, but many congregated in the Street, and divers of them were streined, but none would buy their Goods; and upon *Sunday* the 19th of *June* last, he had another Meeting of many People more, but some of the Officers not being at Home, and some careless, the Meeting cannot be proved, although it appears probably to be so: And lest any more such Meetings should be there, I sent a Warrant for him, that he might promise not to have above four Persons, in that Kind at his House, more than his own Family, which he refusing to do, I gave him five Days Liberty to consider of it, but no Persuasion will operate, and he not being able probably to pay a Fine of 20*l.* I tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, which he also refusing, I committed him to your Custody, that no Rebellion may be contrived in his House. Given under my Hand and Seal this 4th Day of *July* 1670, in the 22d Year of our gracious Sovereign Lord King *Charles the Second* his Reign.

“ *Humphry Hide.*”

Distresses for
Meetings.

During *Stevens's* Imprisonment, *Richard Thatcher*, *Richard Ballard*, *Mary Johnson*, *Clement King*, *Anthony Pearson*, and *Thomas Leadbeater*, suffered Distresses of their Goods for Fines of 5*s.* each, imposed on them for meeting at his House.

At Windsor.

At *Windsor*, *Thomas Davie*, for a Meeting held at his House, was fined 20*l.* *Richard Marsh*, 10*s.* *Thomas Cooke*, *George Taylor*, *Godfrey Redford*, and *George Ball*, 5*s.* each, which Fines were levied by Distress.

At

At Bracknell, John Fenwick, and John Cooke, for Fines of 5s. each, had their Goods taken to the Value of 11s. each.

At Lamborn Woodland, Bartholomew Maylin had nine Cows taken for a Fine of 20l. for a Meeting at his House, which Cows, though exposed to Sale at two Markets, no Body would purchase.

At Reading, Armorer and Coates, Justices, came often to the Meetings at T. Curtis's House, which consisted generally of Women and Children, most of the Men being in Prison: They usually took down the Names of the Persons met, and turned them out. To Alexander Merrick, a young Man, whom they found at one of those Meetings on the 3d of the Month called July, they tendred the Oath of Allegiance, and sent him to Prison. The same Justices, in Conjunction with the Mayor, granted three Warrants against Thomas Curtis, then a close Prisoner, for 20l. each, for wittingly and willingly suffering seditious Conventicles at his House. With these Warrants, Philip Newland, and John Wilder, Constables, with Richard Burt, an Officer, came on the 8th of the Month called August, to the Prison, and asked for Thomas Curtis, who was then at Dinner in his Chamber. The Door being locked, the Goaler broke it open: The Constables shewed Thomas their Warrant, took an Inventory of what he had there, and departed. On the 10th of the said Month, Newland the Constable, and W. Armorer's Footboy, went to Thomas Curtis's House, opened the Door and went in, the Maid-servant only being at Home. The Constable sent for Justice Armorer, who came, and said, they must seize all. The Maid told him, some of the Goods were not her Master's, but another Man's. Armorer answered, he knew that, but he would take it while it was there, and then let them try for it. So they locked up the House, shut out the Family, carried away the Keys of the inner Doors and went away. After which they searched several Neighbours Houses for Goods of Thomas Curtis, broke open some of their Doors, and took an Oath of some of them, that they had no Goods of his. Next Day they took an Inventory of the Goods in Thomas Curtis's House, hired Porters, and carried away great Part of them. On the 16th, Armorer, with Newland the Constable, came to the Meeting, and plucked out those that were met: Anne Curtis, discoursing with Armorer about the Illegality of locking People out of their own Houses, he granted, That there was no Law for it, but said, that the King and Council were above all, and he had a Warrant from them, and would do it, threatening withal, that he would not leave her a Cup to drink in. He then put Padlocks on two of the Doors, and ordered the Constable to fetch away the Remainder of the Goods: On the 18th the Constable, another Officer, and the Bellman, brought a Waggon for them, but could get no Porters to their Assistance: So they went about it themselves, and put a great Tub into the Waggon; but while they were attempting to remove some other Things very heavy and cumbersome, the Waggoner, no Friend to their Proceeding, drew back the Tub, and drove away his Waggon. Thus disappointed of their Purpose, they gave over. On the 25th the Justices, Armorer and Dolby, came to the Meeting, turned out those that were met, and caused the Doors to be nailed up. On the 28th Armorer coming to the Meeting, caused several Buckets of Water to be fetched, saying to his Man, Throw whole Buckets upon them, which he performed: His Master then commanded him, to go in among them, being all Women, and throw it in their Faces, which he also did: Armorer being asked, whether he was not ashamed of such Actions? answered, he would promise them it should be worse next Time, adding, that he would lay the Man fast, who had broke open the Door, which he had nailed up.

BERKSHIRE.
1670.

Bracknell.
Lamborn
Woodland.
At Reading
the Meeting
molested.
A. Merrick
imprisoned.

3 Warrants
against T.
Curtis.
Seizure of T.
Curtis's Goods
in Prison.

and at his
own House.

Porters and
Waggoner un-
willing to load
or carry them.

Doors of the
Meeting-house
nailed up.

Water thrown
on Women.

Meetings
broke up at
Newbury.

At Newbury, on the 15th of the Month called May, three Officers came to the Meeting, took the Names of those that were met, and then turned them into the Street: The like they repeated on the 22d of the same Month. On the 12th of the Month called June, they took six Persons out of the Meeting, and sent them to Prison, and pulled out the rest in a violent manner. On the 10th of the Month called July, a Guard being set to keep the Friends out of their

BERK-
SHIRE,
1670.

their Meeting-house, they met in the Street, where the Mayor, another Justice, and a Constable, pulled them about, and threw away their Hats; they plucked down one Woman, and dragged her along the Street, the Justice bidding them draw her into the Kennel. Having wearied themselves with abusing them, they sent six of them to Prison, where they were kept twenty four Hours without any Charge or Examination. On the 13th of the Month called *August*, for a Meeting held near three Months before, they took away the Goods of *Thomas Marsh*, *Richard Hutchins*, and *John Whittick*, for Fines of 5s. each. How roughly those Officers behaved themselves, may be guessed by the Saying of *James Norway* Churchwarden, to *Richard Hutchins's* Wife, viz. Come, you Whore you, I am come for your Goods, for your being at a Conventicle, at R. Wilson's, the 15th of May, you are the brazen Whore that was drawn down Stairs. Thus they seemed to glory in their own Shame, by insulting over those whom they had misused.

Meetings
broke up at
Oare.

On the 23d of *September*, for a Meeting held a few Days before at *Oare*, Distresses were taken for the following Fines, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
<i>William Austell</i> , for his Wife and two Sons	0	15	0
<i>William Spicer</i> , for himself and Wife	0	10	0

On the 24th,

<i>Richard Angel</i> , <i>Maurice Hutchins</i> , <i>Henry Hunt</i> , and <i>Richard Worrel</i> , 5s. each	}	1	0	0
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Distress at
Uffington.

On the 30th of the same, for a Meeting at *Uffington*, was taken

From *Adam Laurence*, for 10l. Fine, a Rick of Hay.

John Wallis, for 10l. 5s. Ten Quarters of Malt, and a Horse.

Richard Brooks, for 1l. 10s. a Cow worth 2l. 5s.

Fines for not
coming to
Church.

The Meetings being sometimes silent, the Officers were at a stand how to proceed on the late Act at those Meetings, and therefore took another Method, which was to fine the Persons for Absence from their Parish Church. Thus they did to *Richard Hutchins*, *John Child*, and others.

1671.

ANNO 1671.

Prosecutions
for Tithes.

Oliver Lockey, and *John Clark*, were imprisoned in the County Goal at *Reading* for refusing to pay Tithes.

John Cotterell was prosecuted on the Statute for treble Damages, by *Solomon Nash*, Priest of *Binfield*, and had a Verdict given against him for 4l. 13s. Tithes, for the treble of which, Execution was awarded, and his Goods and Chattels taken away to the Value of 27l. 10s. The same Priest's Servants entered the said *Cotterell's* Ground, and carried away his Corn before it was raked, in what Quantities they pleased, driving their Cattle over his Corn, and throwing down his Gates at Pleasure.

Hard Impri-
sonment.

On the 2d of the Month called *July*, *W. Armorer*, with the Mayor, and some of his own Servants, came to the Meeting at *Reading*, and ordered all present to be pulled out and sent to the Counter, whence they were afterward brought to his House, and then, having a List of those who were lately Prisoners, he separated them from the rest, and sent them to Goal on their former Commitment: To all the others, being Women and Maids, he tendered the Oath of Allegiance, and sent them also to Prison, according to his Saying when he first entered the Meeting, *Here is a goodly Company, you shall all go to Goal*. That Day twenty nine Women and Maids were committed, which increased the Number of Prisoners to seventy three, who were much thronged, the Place being very hot, and their Rooms but little and next the Tiling; nor had they any other Place to dress their Victuals in: Which hard Condition they patiently submitted to for the Testimony of a good Conscience, and their steady Perseverance

CHAP. 3. of the People called QUAKERS.

31

Perseverance in meeting together to worship God according to his Requirings, and their Duty.

BERK-SHIRE.
1671.

ANNO 1672.

1672.

In this Year seventy seven Persons were discharged out of Prison in this County by the King's Letters patent, whereby a general Amnesty was granted to such of the People called *Quakers* as were confined at the King's Suit, viz.

77 Discharged out of Prison.

Twenty three Men, under Sentence of *Premunire*, most of whom had been Prisoners above seven Years.

Thirty four Women, viz. nine Widows, Fourteen Wives, and eleven Maids, who being taken at silent Meetings, had the Oath of Allegiance tendred them by *William Armorer*, though some of them were under eighteen Years of Age.

Five for refusing to Swear, one of whom was *Isaac Pennington*, who coming to visit his Friends in Prison, *William Armorer* being informed of it by the Goaler, sent for him, and tendred him the Oath of Allegiance.

Five under Sentence of Banishment.

Four on Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*.

Two for not paying Tithes.

Four for Absence from the publick Worship : Three of whom, viz. *John Langley*, *Mary Slade*, and *Richard Slade*, had been fined 80*l.* each, and *William Weston* 220*l.*

Besides whom, six had died in the Prison, viz. *William Mather*, *Joseph Coale*, *Anne Hatt* Widow, *William Tomson*, *Walter Emerton*, and *Dorothy Clark*.

Six died in Prison.

Daniel Bunce, while at Prison in *Reading*, had his Corn also taken away in great Quantities. Also *Leonard Keys*, being in Goal, had his Goods taken away for his Wife's being at the Meeting.

Distress of Goods.

ANNO 1673.

1673.

Jane Vickris, an antient Woman, of *Sbreenham*, having only half an Acre of Ground sow'd with Hemp, had the fourth Part of her little Crop taken from her for Tithe by one *Kingston* the Parish Priest.

Jane Vickris.

ANNO 1674.

1674.

Robert Paine, and *John Paine*, of *Sunning*, were committed to *Reading* Goal for Tithes, at the Suit of *Samuel Christopher* Priest, and lay there several Years.

Imprisonments and Distresses for Tithes.

Bartholomew Maylin of *Lamborn Woodlands*, had a Calf taken and carried away, without any Warrant, by *Robert Anderson* Priest, and *William Seymour* Bayliff.

Elizabeth Finch of *Winkfield*, Widow, was prosecuted in the Exchequer, imprisoned several Months, and afterward removed to the Fleet in *London*, at the Suit of *Richard Wheatley* Tithe-farmer.

In this Year was taken for Tithes,

	Worth				Worth		
	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>William Sundy</i> of <i>Sunning</i> , for	2	6	0	A Mare	4	5	0
<i>Eleanor Paine</i> , for	2	0	0	Plate	3	0	0
<i>Richard Thatcher</i> , for	1	16	0	Two Cows	8	0	0
For	6	2	0	Taken	15	5	0

For a Meeting at *New-Windsor*, *Samuel Burgis* was fined 20*l.* for which they thresh'd out his Corn, and carried away what they pleased. Several others had their Goods taken by Distress for being at Meetings there, viz. *John Wyron*, *Thomas Davie*, *John Laurence*, *Thomas Pretty*, *Richard Nash*, *George Ball*, *Roger Roberts*, *Godfrey Redford*, and *Ellen Cooke*, to the Value of 3*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

Fines for a Meeting.

Simon

BERK-
SHIRE.
1674.

Simon Batten, Thomas Strange, Joseph Nobes, George Adams, and John Geering, Inhabitants of this County, having been at a Meeting at *Alrescott* in *Oxfordshire*, a Certificate thereof was transmitted from the Justices there, by means of which were taken from them Goods worth 1 l. 16 s. 8 d.

1675.

ANNO 1675.

Death of W.
Dobson in
Prison.

William Dobson was prosecuted in the Exchequer, and sent to Prison on the 6th of September this Year; where, after twenty Months Confinement, he died in the Month called *May* 1677. He had also taken from him at the Suit of *Ralph Whistler*, his Prosecutor, Goods worth 156 l. for five or six Years Tithe of a Farm, the Yearly Value of which Tithe had been formerly estimated at no more than 4 l.

Cruel Proceed-
ings at Read-
ing.

At *Reading*, for a Meeting there, were taken by Distress from *Thomas Tudway*, for 10 s. Fine, Goods worth 1 l. 5 s. and from *Thomas Curtis*, for 3 l. 15 s. Fine, a * Mare worth 7 l.

On the 17th of October, *W. Armorer*, and *George Goswel* Mayor, came to the Meeting at *Reading*, and *Armorer*, with a sharp Bodkin or packing Needle, pricked several of the Women most inhumanly: And at the same Time tendred the Oath of Allegiance to *George Lamboll*, *John Kent*, *Robert Paine jun.* *Joseph Phelps*, *Leonard Cole*, *William Lamboll*, and *William Paine*.

On the 7th of November they came again, but the Meeting being just ended, they stopt thirteen Persons in the Street, going Home, viz. *Thomas Tudway*, *John Harrington*, *William Yeate*, *John Thorne*, *John Buy*, *John Goome*, *John Hill*, *John Price*, *Richard Breach*, *Nathaniel Branstun*, *John Aslett*, *Daniel Hickus*, and *Nicholas Waite*; to all these they tendred the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing it, sent them to Prison, where they were confined in two small Rooms over the Dungeon, in which a Felon then lay sick of the *Small Pox*. They were kept close locked up seventeen Hours of twenty four, and not suffered to go out to ease themselves: Their working Tools were taken from them, and their Wives and Servants not suffered to bring them Necessaries, nor were they allowed the Benefit of Air which the Felons had.

On the 21st of the same Month, seven others, viz. *Leonard Keys*, *Reynold Avery*, *Anthony James*, *John Tray*, *Thomas Bartlett*, *William Legatt*, and *Benjamin Cole*, were taken from the Meeting, and the Oath of Allegiance being first tendred them, were committed to Prison.

Commitments
of 7 to Prison.

On the 13th of the Month called *January* 1675, *Thomas Davie*, *George Ball*, *Richard Nash*, *Thomas Pretty*, *Thomas Draper*, *William Ward*, and *John Wyron*, all of *New Windsor*, were arrested by *Walter Coudry* Under Goaler, on a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo*, for not going to Church, and for not repairing it, and not receiving the Sacrament. They were all carried to *Reading Goal*, where they remained close Prisoners for five Years, though the Sums demanded of them, were from one of them but 3 d. from another 4 d. and from all of them but 12 s. 1 d.

The Calmness of Temper, and Serenity of Mind, wherewith these Prisoners sustained the Miseries of a close Confinement, and the plain, meek, and Christian manner of Address, wherein they represented their Sufferings to the Consideration of those who inflicted them, are well expressed in the following Letter sent to the Mayor of *Reading*, from the Prisoners called *Quakers* there, dated in the Month of *November* 1675, viz.

A Letter from
the Prisoners
to the Mayor.

Friend!
“ THOU art now in Power and Authority, and the chief Magistrate
“ of this Town, that thou mightest be a Terror to the evil Doers, and
“ a Praise to them that do well, and fear God, and depart from Iniquity: And
“ it is the Day of thy Visitation, and a Day of Trial what thou wilt do now
“ thou

* This Mare, when exposed to Sale, being known to be *Thomas Curtis's*, none of the Neighbours would buy her, wherefore the Justice, or his Brother, took her at 4 l.

“ thou hast Power in thy Hands, for the Lord, as he hath appointed a Day in
 “ which all Men shall come to Judgment, and every Man without Exception, and
 “ without Respect of Persons, must receive a Reward according to the Deeds done
 “ in the Body, whether they be good, or whether they be evil in his Sight, who
 “ is a God of a pure Eye, and searcheth the Heart of Man, whose Ways are far
 “ above Man’s Ways, and his Thoughts are not Man’s Thoughts; who made
 “ Man upright, though he has sought out many Inventions, and is become a de-
 “ generate Plant, and hath forgotten the Lord his Maker, and in that State may
 “ and doth call Evil good, and Good evil: Yet the Lord hath appointed a
 “ Day and a Time in which he visits Man, either by his invisible Light and
 “ Spirit inwardly, or by his Messengers or true Witnesses outwardly, or both,
 “ who desires not the Death of a Sinner, but that all Men might turn from
 “ their Wickedness and live, who waits long to be gracious, yet his Spirit
 “ shall not always strive with Man, for that he is vain. Therefore this is
 “ written in true Love to thy Soul, that thou mightest consider, and mightest
 “ not harden thy Heart, whilst it is called To-day, whilst thou hast Time
 “ and Space, for Time is precious, and in the Hand of the Lord, who giveth
 “ Life and Breath unto all Men, and thy Breath is in thy Nostrils, and the
 “ Lord will take it at his Pleasure. Therefore consider whilst thou hast a
 “ Day and a Time, what thou art doing, whilst thou art haling and pulling
 “ thy peaceable Neighbours to Prison, who truly and earnestly desire and seek
 “ thine and all Men’s Good, and not Hurt to any. Why shouldst thou strive
 “ against what the Lord is bringing to pass, and not rather turn into thine
 “ own Heart, and *do to others as thou wouldst be done by, which is, saith Christ,*
 “ *the Law and the Prophets.* And consider what the wise Counsellor said, *Take*
 “ *heed and let them alone,* for if this Work be not of God it will fall, but if it
 “ be, thou and ye cannot overthrow it, *lest you be found Fighters against God,*
 “ whilst ye cannot tell, nor prove by the Testimonies of the Scriptures, and
 “ holy Sayings of holy Men in all Ages and Generations past, that this Work
 “ is not of God, it would be most safe to let them alone, and be contented,
 “ whilst thou, with many others of our Neighbours, have had long Expe-
 “ rience, that we have lived quietly and peaceably among you, and have paid
 “ our just Dues and Taxes readily. Therefore consider, and commune with
 “ thy own Heart, and see whether thou dost by us thy peaceable Neighbours
 “ as thou wouldst be done by, and the Lord will judge between us, who will
 “ judge in Righteousness, and his Witness in thy own Conscience (in that Day
 “ when he judgeth and rewardeth every Man according to his Deeds) will
 “ testify for us, for we are oppressed on every Side, sometimes under Pretence
 “ of Law, and sometimes where no Law can be pretended, and the Goaler
 “ hath taken away some of our Goods, and our working Tools: We desire,
 “ if thou please, to let us know whether he did it by thy Order or not, and
 “ to require him to deliver them to us again.”

BERK-
SHIRE.
1675.

This cool and Christian manner of representing their Grievances, had some-
 times the desired Effect in softning the Hearts of their Persecutors, and exciting
 them to a Consideration of the Injustice of their Proceedings.

ANNO 1677.

On the 15th of the Month called *June*, *John Knowles* of *East-Chalow*, was
 committed to *Reading* Goal at the Suit of *Stephen Penston*, an Impropiator,
 for Tithes of but 3s. Value.

1677.
Imprisonment
of J. Knowles.

ANNO 1678.

On the 27th of the Month called *March* this Year, *William Waterman* of
Hartwell, a poor Shepherd, having a Wife and eight Children, was arrested for
 Tithe at the Suit of *John Sawyer* his Parish Priest. In the Month called
 Vol. I. May,

1678.
Imprisonment
of W. Water-
man.

BERK-
SHIRE.
1678.

John Lam-
boll.
M. Reynolds.
and S. Burgis.

Excommuni-
cations.

Distress for
not Swearing.

1683.

Distresses for
Meeting.

Sudden Death
of a Persecu-
tor.

Distresses for
Meeting.

May, the Widow *Thickas*, an aged Woman, was imprisoned for Tithe at the Suit of *John Mills* of *Mortimer*, Impropriator. In the same Year *John Lamboll* of *Sandford*, for one Year's Tithe of a Farm of 14*l.* per Annum Rent, had Corn and Hay taken from him worth 5*l.* Also *Michael Reynolds* of *Faringdon*, on an Execution for Tithes, at the Suit of *Robert Pye* Impropriator, had his Corn and Cattle taken away to the Value of 97*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* for only one Year's Tithe of Land of 55*l.* Yearly Rent. And *Samuel Burgis* of *Brunton*, for 4*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* demanded for Tithes by *Thomas Worral* Priest, had a Mare taken from him worth 10*l.*

About this Time many Persons in this County were excommunicated for absenting themselves from the publick Worship, viz. *Robert Aldworth*, *Simon Battin* and his Wife, *Amor Andrews*, *Thomas Bartlett*, *Richard Cox*, *Humphry Carter*, *Robert Cox*, *Sarah Child* Widow, *Elizabeth Finch* Widow, *Anne Goddard*, *J. Gayer*, *Thomas Holmes*, *Henry Hodges*, *Simon Haynes* sen. *Richard Hutchins* and his Wife, *Thomas Kitchin*, *John Kent*, *Faith Lewington*, *Mary Lewington*, *John Lamboll*, *Bartholomew Maylin*, *Thomas Minshall* and his Wife, *Edward Mills*, *Stephen Morrall*, *T. Merryman*, *Paul Newman*, his Wife and Daughter, *Edward Swain*, *Francis Steames*, *John Strong*, *Richard Townsend* and his Wife, *Ferdinando Tull* and his Wife, *George White* and his Wife, Widow *Whitewich*, *John Whitewich* and his Wife, *William Waterman*, *Robert Wilson* and his Wife, *Priscilla Wilson*, and *H. Wright*. Also *Thomas Marsh* of *Newbury*, who was committed to *Reading Goal* by a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*.

On the 17th of October this Year, *Robert Ewer* being chosen Tithing-man at a Court Leet, and refusing to Swear, suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 40*s.*

ANNO 1683.

In this Year many, for their Constancy in attending religious Meetings, suffered Distress of their Goods and Chattels, viz.

		l.	s.	d.
At Faringdon,	<i>Oliver Sansom</i>	30	0	0
	<i>Thomas Withers</i>	3	0	0
	<i>George Adams</i>	2	15	0
	<i>William Green</i>	2	10	0
	<i>Edward Lockey</i>	1	11	0
		39	16	0

The said *Thomas Withers* was grievously beaten and abused by one *Thomas Reynolds*, who took away his Goods without any Warrant; but it was observed that *Reynolds* was soon after suddenly struck with Sicknes, of which he died within two Days.

		l.	s.	d.
At Windsor,	<i>Roger Roberts</i> , for Preaching	40	8	0
	<i>John Cottrell</i> of <i>Winkfield</i>	11	0	0
	<i>John Jegger</i> of <i>Eaton</i>	10	14	0
	<i>Richard Nash</i>	0	5	6
At Newbury,	<i>Richard Brown</i>	7	2	0
At Oare,	<i>William Austell</i>	0	18	0
	<i>John Wisdom</i>	0	18	6
	<i>Simon Battin</i>	21	4	0
	<i>William Spicer</i>	0	18	0
	<i>Paul Newman</i>	1	4	0
	<i>Matthew Andrews</i>	0	7	0
		94	19	0

John Buy, for Preaching, was fined 40*l.* and had taken from him in Corn, Meal, and other Things, to the Value of 53*l.* At

At Reading, John Thorpe Mayor, with his Officers, thrust the Friends out of their Meeting-place, and when they continued their Meeting in the Street, he fined them, and committed seven of them to Prison, namely, Abraham Bonifield, Simon Hawkins, Richard Rouse, Thomas Speakman, Giles Charlton, John Thickas, and Joseph South, which last died a Prisoner.

Others, for Absence from the National Worship, had their Goods taken by Distress, viz.

BERK-SHIRE.
1683.

Commitment
of 7 to Prison.

Distresses.

	l.	s.	d.
Paul Newman	0	5	0
Richard Allen	0	10	0
William Orpwood	0	16	0
John Hoskins of Midgham	1	8	0
Samuel Burgis of Brimpton	0	6	0
Andrew Pearson	0	5	0
Ferdinando Tull	2	3	0
John Giddin	2	12	0
	8	5	0

And for the same Cause Paul Newman, and Edmund Orpwood his Servant, were sent to Goal.

Taken also this Year for Tithe of Corn,

	l.	s.	d.
From John Knowles of Chalow, to the Value of	3	16	6
Richard Vokins of West Chalow	16	17	4
Daniel Bunce of Cherney	5	5	4
George White of Bucklebury	6	4	0
Joseph Stevens of Baulkin	3	12	0
	35	15	2

Tithes.

ANNO 1684.

1684.

Taken in Corn for Tithes,

	l.	s.	d.
From John Knowles	1	4	0
Daniel Bunce	8	5	0
Paul Newman of Eaton	5	5	0
Samuel Burgis of Brimpton	0	12	0
Richard Vokins	13	18	0
	29	4	0

Tithes.

Taken by Justices Warrants for Absence from the National Worship,

	l.	s.	d.
From William Bryan of Bucklebury, Goods worth	0	19	6
John Sanson	0	9	0
John Wisdom	0	12	0
William Austell	12	0	0
	14	0	6

Fines.

And for the same Cause, John Norman, William Austell, Martha Weston, and Richard Ball, Austell's Servant, were committed to Prison.

Imprisonments.

At Newbury Sessions in the Month called April this Year, an Appeal of Thomas Withers, and Edward Lockey, on a false Information of being at a Meeting, was tried: But though their Case appeared to many very clear, yet the Court

Trial of an Appeal.

Court

BERK-
SHIRE.
1684.

Fines levied,
&c.

18 Imprisoned
for refusing to
swear.

Cause of
Oliver San-
som's Commit-
ment.

1685.

Fines for re-
fusing to bear
Arms, or to
pay Trophy
Money.

Many Distres-
ses made.

Court so influenced the Jury, that they determined it against them; and soon after *Edward Lockey* suffered Distress to the Value of 21*l*.

Roger Roberts, fined for Meeting, was committed to Prison, for lack of Goods to make Distress.

Taken more for Fines for Meeting,

From *Abraham Bonifield* of Reading, Goods worth

John Wiron of Faringdon

John Wells

<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1	0	0
0	12	0
0	9	0
2	1	0

On the 6th of the ninth Month this Year, *Edward Mills*, *Robert Wilson*, *John Strong*, *Joseph Gray*, *John Plant*, *John Jones*, *Williams Mills*, *Benjamin Gray*, *Joseph Stills*, *Richard Brown*, *Thomas Marsh*, *John Waterman*, *Robert Cox*, *William Tovey*, *Robert Jones*, *John Gray*, *Thomas Jones* and *Thomas Hinde*, were imprisoned at *Newbury* for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance: Some of them were taken at a Meeting, and others summoned to an Adjournment of the Sessions there. There were also at that Time Prisoners for the same Cause in this County, *Samuel Burgess*, *George White*, *Edward Swain*, *John Sansom*, *Simon Battin*, *Richard Allen*, *William Orpwood*, *Francis Humes*, and *Oliver Sansom*: The Occasion of *Oliver Sansom's* Commitment was thus: He, seeing two Informers standing in the Town-hall, advised them to desist from their Practice, telling them, *their Ends would not be answered, but they would be reduced to Beggary and Scorn*. This so enraged them that they complained to the Justices, who sent for *Oliver* and tendered him the Oath, which they knew he would not take.

ANNO 1685.

Abraham Bonifield of Reading, for refusing to find a Man to serve in the trained Bands, was fined, and had his Goods taken away to the Value of 2*l*. 3*s*. 5*d*.

Daniel Bunce, for refusing to pay Trophy Money, had a Lamb taken from him worth 4*s*. and *William Austell* of Oare, for the same Cause, Goods worth 2*s*. 6*d*.

In this Year many Distresses were made, on some for being at Meetings, and on others for Absence from the National Worship, viz.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
At Faringdon, from <i>George Adams</i>	2	7	10
<i>Michael Reynolds</i>	5	3	8
<i>Edward Lockey</i>	3	8	11
<i>James Matthew</i>	1	1	0
<i>William Austell</i>	0	9	0
<i>John Haines</i>	0	12	6
* <i>Jane Sansom</i>	1	2	6
<i>Richard Vokins</i>	1	4	0
<i>Mary Butcher</i>	0	5	6
At Bishopton, from <i>William Cooper</i>	20	19	3
At Windsor, from <i>Thomas Pretty</i>	0	9	6
<i>John Laurence</i>	0	11	6
<i>John Moore</i>	0	14	0
	38	9	2

Carried over

* She was the Wife of *Oliver Sansom*, then in Prison for his Testimony against Swearing.

BERKSHIRE.
1685.

	Brought over	l.	s.	d.
At Charlow, from	Francis Knowles	38	9	2
	John Knowles	0	10	0
	Bartholomew Laurence	0	10	0
At Oldfield, from	Thomas Reynolds	7	17	0
	Elizabeth Hatton	0	8	0
At Uffington, from	Richard Thatchter	1	2	0
	Richard Ballard	1	0	8
	William Ballard	1	7	0
	Richard Saunders	1	1	0
	Alice Dean	1	1	0
	Robert Holmes	0	11	6
	Joseph Woodroof	0	15	9
	Mary Deane	0	10	6
	John Clark	0	16	0
	John Stevens	0	18	6
At Watchfield, from	John Haines	5	7	0
At Cherney, from	Thomas Strange	5	1	3
	Daniel Bunce	5	2	6
	John Pinell	0	18	6
At Coltswell, from	Richard Hazel	3	7	0
	Joane Hazel	0	5	0
At Longcutt, from	Jane Knight	1	6	6
At Idson, from	John Langley	2	5	0
George White at several Times had taken from		31	2	6
him Horses, Cattle, Corn, &c. worth		112	3	4

On the 21st of the Month called July, at Abington Sessions, Samuel Burges, George White, Edward Swaine, Oliver Sansom, and John Sansom, were indicted for refusing to Swear, but upon arguing the Errors in their Indictment, were acquitted. Yet, so partial were the Justices, that instead of discharging them, they tendred them the Oath of Allegiance again, and remanded them to Prison. Taken this Year in Corn for Tithes,

Partiality of
the Justices.

From	l.	s.	d.
Samuel Burgis	0	16	0
John Knowles	3	13	0
Michael Reynolds	12	6	6
Thomas Strange	5	16	0
Richard Vokins	15	18	0
Paul Newman	9	12	0
Daniel Bunce	6	10	0

Tithes of
Corn.

ANNO 1686.

1686.

Taken in Corn for Tithes,

From	l.	s.	d.
John Knowles	0	19	0
Samuel Burgis	0	10	0
Daniel Bunce	4	5	0
Richard Vokins	20	0	6
George White	5	10	0

Tithes of
Corn.

BERK-
SHIRE.
1686.

K. James's
Pardon.

Special War-
rant for ex-
tending the
King's Par-
don.

On the 14th of the Month called *April* this Year, Friends imprisoned in this County were set at Liberty by King *James's* general Pardon, the Benefit of which was extended to them by a special Warrant, in the following Form, viz.

" JAMES R.

" WHEREAS we are given to understand, that several of our Subjects
" commonly called *Quakers*, in the Schedule hereunto annexed, are
" either convicted or in Process in order to their Conviction of *Premunire* for
" not Swearing, or indicted or presented for not coming to Church, or con-
" victed for the same, and several of them have been returned into our Ex-
" chequer, and in Charge for 20 l. per Menssem, according to the Statutes in
" that Case provided, and some of them lie in Prison upon Writs de *Excom-*
" *municato capiendo*, and other Processess for the Causes aforesaid, and we,
" being willing that our Subjects commonly called *Quakers*, who are or have
" been prosecuted, indicted, convicted or imprisoned for any the Causes aforesaid, should receive the full Benefit of our general Pardon, which we have
" been pleased to grant to our loving Subjects by our royal Proclamation, with
" all possible Ease to them, our Will and Pleasure is, and we do hereby au-
" thorize, will and require you, to cause such of our Subjects commonly called
" *Quakers*, who are in Prison for any the Causes aforesaid, to be forthwith
" discharged out of Prison, and forthwith to stop and discharge, or cause to be
" discharged, by giving your Consent on our Behalf, all Fines, Forfeitures, or
" Sums of Money, charged upon any of our Subjects commonly called *Qua-*
" *kers*, for not coming to Church, or set upon them upon any Process for the
" same, as also all Processess, Indictments, Presentments and Convictions, for
" any of the said Causes, by entering *Noli prosequi*, or otherwise, as you shall
" judge necessary for rendring that our Pardon most effectual and beneficial for
" our said Subjects, and for your so doing this shall be your Warrant.

" Given at our Court at *Whitehall* the 15th Day of *March*, 1685-6, in
" the Second Year of our Reign.

" To our Trusty and Well-beloved
" our Attorney General.

By His Majesty's Command,

" *Sunderland P.*"

Justices
Threats.

Thus were they set at Liberty, though against the Will of some of the Justices, who were heard to say upon the Bench, that it would not be long before they should have them in Prison again.

1687.

ANNO 1687.

Taken in Corn for Tithes,

Tithes of
Corn.

From *Richard Vokins*

Paul Newman

Samuel Burgis

John Knowles

Daniel Bunce

Ralph Mackarell of Hungerford

Rebecca Mills of the same

l. s. d.

20 14 0

6 0 0

0 10 0

2 13 6

3 0 0

4 10 0

0 16 0

38 3 6

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

The said *Ralph Mackarell*, and *Rebecca Mills*, were also committed to Prison by an Attachment out of the Exchequer, at the Suit of *John Wells* Priest, for Tithes.

ANNO

CHAP. 3. of the People called QUAKERS.

39

ANNO 1688.

BERK:
SHIRE.
1688.

Taken in Corn for Tithes,

From Thomas Watts
Samuel Burgis
Adam Laurence
John Knowles
John Hankin
Paul Newman
Richard Vokins

l.	s.	d.
1	17	0
0	18	0
0	6	0
2	10	0
0	3	6
4	5	0
18	18	0
28	17	6

Tithes of
Corn.

CHAP. IV.

B R I S T O L.

BRISTOL:
1654.

ANNO 1654.

IN September this Year, John Camm, John Audland, Edward Burrough, and Francis Howgill, were at this City. Their Preaching was like that of the Apostles, in the Demonstration of the Spirit, and with Power: Multitudes flocked to hear them, and many embraced their Doctrine: The publick Assemblies, for lack of Room in their usual Meeting-houses, were held in the Fields, even in Winter, increasing to the Number of two, three, and sometimes near four Thousand of all Degrees, Professions, Ages and Sexes. This alarmed the Priests, and they the Magistrates, who on the 30th of October held a Council, the Mayor presiding, and sent for Burrough and Howgill: The Issue of their Examination, at which none of their Friends were suffered to be present, though their Opposers were readily admitted, was an Order for their departing the City forthwith at their Peril: To this they answered, *We came not in the Will of Man, nor stand in the Will of Man, but when He moves us to depart, who moved us hither, we shall obey; but your Wills we cannot obey, for your Will is no Law; if we are guilty of the Transgression of any Law, let us suffer by it, but rather than we will transgress the righteous Law of God written in our Hearts, by subjecting to your Wills and Lusts, we shall chuse to walk in the Law of God, and to suffer under your Wills, what you can lay upon us: We are free-born Englishmen, and have served the Common-wealth in Faithfulness, being free in the Presence of God from the Transgression of any Law: To your Commands we cannot be obedient, but if by Violence you put us out of the City, and have Power to do it, we cannot resist.* Having said this, they went out of the Court, but tarried in the City preaching as before; for, though the Magistrates bare them no Goodwill, yet they could not either by Law or Justice execute the Order they had made. The Opposers of the Truth, enraged at this Disappointment, excited the Mob to do what the Magistrates could not: On the 19th of December, John Camm and John Audland, passing over the Bridge toward Brislington, where they had appointed a Meeting, were assaulted by some Hundreds of the Rabble, whose ignorant Zeal had been blown up by one Farmer, a persecuting Priest, and others, to the highest Pitch of Fury. They violently drove back the innocent Strangers, some crying out, *hang them presently*

Large Meetings in this City.

Priests excite the Magistrates to Persecution.

An Order for their departing the City.

Courageous Answer of Burrough and Howgill.

The Mob raised against them.

BRISTOL.
1654.

Patience of
the Sufferers.

Rioters as-
semble again.

The Innocent
preserved.

Magistrate
countenance
the Mob.

sently, others, knock them down, and would have dragged them through the Wine Street out of the City, in order to execute their wicked Purpose upon them, but were dissuaded by others, who advised first to carry them before the Mayor. Then they dragged them to the Tolzey, a Place in the City where Merchants and Traders meet, and Courts of Justice are held. There again the enraged Mob would probably have torn them in pieces, had not a Friend with much Danger and Difficulty got them into his House, and shut the Doors. The Rabble, with hideous Noise, threatened to pull down the House, while the innocent Men remained as *Lambs dumb before their Shearers*, in Quietness and Patience, yet undaunted, putting their Trust in God. After some Time, the Officers of the Garrison approaching, the Mob, fearing Military Execution, dispersed. Next Morning the two Strangers passed over the Bridge to their Meeting at *Brislington*: Three of the Rioters were apprehended, on the Report of which they gathered again to the Number of about *fifteen Hundred*, and forced the Discharge of their Companions. Toward Evening it was rumoured that the *Quakers* were returning, whereupon Multitudes drew together on the Bridge, and on the other Side of the River *Avon*, uttering terrible Language and Threats, so that the Magistrates, fearing Bloodshed, sent their Sword-bearer to prevent the Men from returning that Way, for that *they could not undertake to secure them*. Thus Providence preserved the Innocent from the enraged Rabble, whose Fury spread a Terror over the whole City. These Disorders were too much countenanced by Men in Office: It was credibly reported, that *George Hellier*, an *Alderman*, said at the Tolzey to some of the Rioters, *that he would spend his Blood, and lose his Life, rather than any of his fellow Apprentices should go to Prison*: Such Familiarity increased their Insolence. Nevertheless, the Magistrates soon after, in representing these Tumults to the Protector, charged the innocent Men, against whom they were raised, as the Authors of them.

In the next Month the Magistrates issued out the following Warrant to the Constables of the several Wards of that City, viz.

“ *City of Bristol.*

“ *To the Constables of the Peace of the Ward of*
“ *and to every of them.*

Warrant for
apprehending
them as Fran-
ciscan Fryars.

“ **F**ORASMUCH as Information hath been given unto us upon Oath, that
“ certain Persons of the *Franciscan Order* in *Rome*, have of late come
“ over into *England*, and under the Notion of *Quakers*, drawn together several
“ Multitudes of People in *London*: And whereas certain Strangers going under
“ the Names of *John Camm*, *John Audland*, *George Fox*, *James Naylor*, and
“ *Edward Burrough*, and others unknown, have lately resorted to this City,
“ and in like Manner, under the same Notion of *Quakers*, drawn Multitudes
“ of People after them, and occasioned very great Disturbances amongst us,
“ and forasmuch as by the same Information it appeareth to us to be very pro-
“ bable, and much to be suspected, that the said Persons so lately come hither,
“ are some of those that came from *Rome* as aforesaid: These are therefore in
“ the Name of his *Higness* the *Lord Protector*, to will and require you to
“ make diligent Search throughout your Ward for the aforesaid Strangers, or
“ any of them, and all other suspected Persons, and to apprehend or bring
“ them before us, or some of us, to be dealt with according to Law. Hereof
“ fail not. Given the 25th of *January* 1654.

“ Signed *John Gunning*, Mayor
“ *Gabriel Sherman*
“ *Henry Gibbs*
“ *George Hellier*
“ *Gabriel Sherman*.

William Gunn
Joseph Jackson
John Lock
Richard Vickris

To

To this Warrant *Gabriel Sherman*, one of the Aldermen, set his Name twice, a Token of his Non-attention to, or Disregard of what he did. And indeed the Information they pretended, had it been real, could have given no ground for suspecting these Persons of coming from *Rome*, whose Birth and constant Residence was well known to have been in this Kingdom. But on the same Pretence *Thomas Marford*, a Man born and brought up in *Bristol*, and who had an Estate there, was taken out of a Meeting and carried before the Mayor. They charged him with being a *Franciscan Friar*, because he was clothed in a Coat of *Hair*. When the Mayor and Aldermen asked him, *why he came into the City in that Habit*, his Answer was, *I was commanded of the Lord to come and mourn in Sackcloth for you, and to warn you to let the Lord's People alone, as you will answer it at the Day of Judgment, and not to persecute and imprison his Saints*. Upon this the Mayor ordered him to be turned out of Town, and on his coming in again, committed him to *Newgate*. When his Wife complained to the Mayor of the Injustice of her Husband's Confinement, she was sent to *Bridewell*.

Thomas Jaques, going to a Meeting in *Bristol*, was taken up by a Constable, sent to *Bridewell*, and next Day set in the Stocks six Hours.

Jeremiah Hignell, *Daniel Wastfield*, and *William Ford*, all three Inhabitants in *Bristol*, were sent from their own Houses, and committed to Prison by the Mayor, without any Cause assigned.

ANNO 1655.

Sarah Goldsmith, clad in a Garment of Sackcloth, reaching to the Ground, with her Head uncovered, and Earth or Ashes laid thereon, and her Hair hanging down about her, early in the Morning on the 3d of the Month called *May*, passed through the Streets to the several Gates of *Bristol*, two of her Friends accompanying her: Some People followed them, but did them no Harm. About nine the same Morning she came and stood in the same Habit at the High-Cross in View of the Town and Market, as a Sign against Pride. There she stood about half an Hour, till certain rude Persons began to abuse her, when some Bystanders in Compassion forced her into a Shop, out of which the People called to have her thrown, but the Chamberlain and Serjeants kept her out of their Hands and carried her to the *Tolzey*; the Mayor came thither, and asked her, *why she appeared in the City in that Habit*? She answered, *In Obedience to the Light in my Conscience*. What if you, said the Mayor, had been killed by the rude Multitude in your Obedience? She replied, *I am in the Hand of him that ruleth all Things, I have harmed none, yet have I been harmed: Neither have I broken any Law by which I can be brought under just Censure: If I had appeared in gay Clothing, you would not have been troubled*. In Conclusion, the Mayor, at the Instigation of *Joseph Jackson*, one of the Aldermen, sent her to *Bridewell*, and with her *Anne Gunnicliffe* and *Margaret Wood*, for owning and accompanying her.

ANNO 1656.

About this Time several Persons were committed to *Newgate* in *Bristol*, for bearing Testimony to the Truth in the Place of publick Worship there, viz.

Thomas Robinson and *Josiah Cole*, having first been grievously abused by the Populace, and dragged bareheaded under the Spouts in Time of Rain.

John Smith, after he had been sorely beaten, and his Clothes torn by the Rabble.

John Waring, *Henry Waring*, *Margaret Thomas*, and *Elizabeth Marshall*, after having been miserably misused by the Mob: The two former of these were committed to Prison without any *Mittimus* in Writing.

To these we must add the deplorable Case of *Temperance Hignell*, who being concerned to reprove a certain Priest, after he had ended his Sermon, was knocked down in the Place, to the taking away her Senses, and sorely beaten

BRISTOL.
1654.T. Marford
clad in Sack-
cloth.Commitments
of several to
Prison.

1655.

S. Gold-
smith's Ap-
pearance in
Sackcloth and
Ashes.Her Commit-
ment to
Bridewell.

1656.

Commitment
of several to
Prison for
their publick
Testimony.Barbarous
Usage of
Temperance
Hignall, caus-
ing her Death.

BRISTOL.
1656.

Death of G.
Harrison.
Close Impri-
sonment of
others.

and bruised, her Clothes were torn from her Back; after which she was cast into Prison, where being dangerously ill, she was carried out in a Basket, and within two or three Days died.

George Harrison was also imprisoned there till Death.

For Causes of the like Nature, Christopher Birkhead, Benjamin Maynard, John Ware, and John Bezer, of whom the first had been struck on the Head with a Stick by the Priest himself, and the two last put into the Stocks, and whipt, were kept close Prisoners four Months, and none of their Friends admitted to visit them.

1657.

Case of J.
Love and J.
Withers.

John Love and John Withers, though they had legally served an Apprenticeship in the City, yet because they could not Swear, were refused their Freedom, had their Shops several Times shut up, and their Goods taken from them: At length being summoned to the Mayor's Court, and appearing there with their Hats on, they were committed to Prison.

ANNO 1657.

1660.

K. Charles 2.
his Proclama-
tion against
Meetings in-
forced.

Courage of
D. Hollister
and G. Bi-
shop.

In the Month called January this Year, on Occasion of the Infurrection of Venner and his Accomplices, called the Fifth Monarchy Men, a Proclamation of King Charles the Second was issued against the Meetings of the Quakers, &c. This, as soon as known at Bristol, was put in Execution. On the 15th of the Month, a Captain and Lieutenant of the Militia, with Soldiers, came to the Meeting at Dennis Hollister's, and turned out sixty five Persons, who were conducted by a Guard to the Guild-hall, where a List of their Names was taken. Then Dennis Hollister and George Bishop, with that List, were carried before the Mayor, who examined them apart, using Arguments to dissuade, and Threats to terrify them from Meeting, but they answered with Christian Courage and Freedom, that they thought it their Duty so to meet, in Obedience to the Requirings of the Lord, whom they ought to obey rather than Man, that in so doing they had not broken any Law, no not the Proclamation itself, which had not yet been published in that City. The Mayor requiring Sureties for their good Behaviour, which they knew, in his Sense, implied a Restraint from their religious Meetings, they refused, frankly telling the Magistrates, that they might as well think to hinder the Sun from shining, or the Tide from flowing, as to think to hinder the Lord's People from meeting to wait upon him, whilst but two of them were left together. The Mayor then ordered, that all who had been taken at the Meeting should be sent to Prison, except the said Dennis Hollister and George Bishop, whom the Magistrates told, they might go to their own Houses. They replied, We seek not Liberty at the Hand of those who have ordered our Brethren to Prison, nor can it be just to commit poor Men and let us go free. Howbeit, they were not then committed, but next Day were sent for again, and persisting to refuse the Sureties required, Dennis Hollister was sent to Prison, but George Bishop went free till the 18th of the same Month, the sixth of the Week, when being again at a Meeting in his own hired House, a Captain with Soldiers, having their Swords drawn and Matches lighted, forced him with about fifty others to the Guard, where they were kept in the Cold without Fire or Beds, and next Day sent to Prison. On the First-day of the next Week, sixty-five Persons more were taken at the Meeting and committed to Prison, which, with some taken from their own Houses, increased the Number of Prisoners to about one Hundred and ninety. Soldiers kept Guard Day and Night at the several Prisons, with Orders that none should come to them: Their Servants were denied Access, and whatever they brought was strictly searched, and themselves rudely treated: Thus were they kept several Days, till the 24th of the same Month, when an Order was issued about Midnight, by which they were discharged next Morning. This was the Consequence of representing to the King the

Commitment
of 65 Persons
to Prison.

the Grievous Sufferings sustained by them from the Soldiers; which was repeatedly done by *Margaret Fell*, who with unwearied Application procured a second Proclamation as a *Superseas* to the former, prohibiting the Officers and Soldiers from entering Houses without a legal Warrant.

On the 1st of the Month called *February*, *Samuel Taylor*, Shoemaker, and *Edward Erberry*, Soapboiler, and the next Day, *Thomas Calloxobill*, a Shopkeeper, were taken from their Houses by Soldiers, for refusing to contribute toward the Charge of the City Militia; and *Richard Holding*, lately come thither from Ireland, was taken out of a Friend's House by Soldiers, and had before the Mayor, who tendered him the Oath of Allegiance, and sent him to Prison for refusing it.

ANNO 1661.

The Meetings were now generally quiet; yet some of this People were molested on another Occasion. In December this Year, an Order was proclaimed by the common Cryer through the City, that no Person should presume to open his Shop, or any Part thereof, on Christmas-day, or on any other of the Holidays, on pain of Imprisonment. This Order the Quakers regarded not, but opened their Shops as usual, for which the Mayor sent *Thomas Goldney*, *Henry Rowe*, *Charles Harford*, and *John Love*, to Prison; they asking by what Law he proceeded, he answered, *My Will is my Law, I am chief Magistrate, and will be obeyed*. He also gave special Order to the Goaler, to keep them in separate Apartments, and not suffer them to speak to one another.

ANNO 1662.

John Audland, and *John Wilkinson*, were taken at a Meeting, and by the Mayor committed to Prison for refusing the Oath of Allegiance. Their Examination, at which many People were present, was as follows, viz.

Magistrate. What are your Names?

Answer. John Wilkinson and John Audland.

Mag. Whence came you?

Answer. Out of Westmorland.

Mag. What both of you?

Answer. Yes.

Mag. You came hither to seduce the People, and to get tumultuous Meetings, and to draw People from their Obedience to the King's Laws.

Answer. Nay, we have no such Business, neither do we seduce the People at all, but desire the Welfare of the King, and all his People.

Mag. What Business have you here?

Answer. We came to bear Witness to the Truth.

Mag. Who called you to come here to bear Witness to the Truth?

Answer. You called us to come here, and so we are come here to bear Witness to the Truth.

Mag. Were you at the Meeting Yesterday?

Answer. Yes.

Mag. Were there three more than you?

Answer. Call the Lieutenant who took us away: It is likely he took Notice how many there were.

Mag. It is no matter: You were at the Meeting, and we look upon you as dangerous Persons, therefore we tender you the Oath of Allegiance? Will you take that or no? Read it to them, Clerk. — Which was done.

Answer. We are not satisfied that it is lawful for us to Swear, because it is against Christ's Doctrine, who saith, *Swear not at all*: But if you will satisfy us according to the Truth, that it is lawful for us to Swear, we will give you a farther Answer.

Mag. We will not dispute the Case with you, but if you would be satisfied, it must be by some Ministers, or the Bishop of the Diocese.

Answer.

BRISTOL.
1660.

M. Fell's Application to the King.
Apprehension of several by Soldiers.
Imprisonment of R. Holding.

1661.

Imprisonments for opening Shops on the Day called Christmas-day.

1662.

Commitment of J. Audland and J. Wilkinson.
Their Examination.

BRISTOL.
1662.

Answ. We shall be very willing to hear the Ministers or the Bishops, what they will say to us in this Matter, let them come that we may hear them.

Mag. *That is not like to be done now. Will you take the Oath or not?*

Answ. We are Christians, and do account ourselves bound to abide in Christ's Doctrine, who absolutely forbids all Swearing; therefore we desired to be answered by any of you concerning it; for we have no Intention against the King of Harm in the least; neither do we refuse to Swear because of any Guilt, for we are innocent in our Hearts and Consciences; neither have we given any Occasion wherefore the Oath should be offered to us, for we have walked in all good Conscience peaceably.

Mag. *You must obey the King's Laws, and go to Church, and hear divine Service?*

Answ. We do go to Church, and hear divine Service.

Mag. *What Church, an House or a Barn?*

Answ. Nay, we do not call an House or a Barn a Church.

Mag. *What is a Church then?*

Answ. The Household of Faith, who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, that meet together in the Name and Fear of the Lord, and worship him in Spirit and in Truth.

Mag. *So: Well, you are required here to take the Oath, and if you will do it, answer us; or deny us, which if you refuse we must commit you.*

Answ. We are not resolved that it is lawful for us to Swear, and therefore if you do commit us, we shall willingly suffer, and keep our Consciences clear in the Will of the Lord, rather than sin against God.

Mag. *Well, hold them the Book.*

A Man brought the Book, and said, *Here, will you lay your Hands on the Book?*

Answ. When we have Occasion; but that Book forbids all Swearing.

Then one of them taking the Book in his Hand, would have turned to a Place in it.

Mag. *Take the Book from him: He will bring a Place against Swearing.*

Answ. Do you not profess your selves Christians? Will you not own the Doctrine of Christ and his Apostles?

Mag. *We have a Law that you must Swear, and therefore you refusing must go to Goal. Clerk, make a Mittimus.*

Answ. Well, but hear us, will you commit us for owning the Doctrine of Christ? You had no Occasion to offer us the Oath, for we are peaceable Men, and were not seen in any tumultuous Meeting, neither have we absolutely refused, but only desired you to answer the thing, because we fear the Lord, and an Oath to us is matter of Conscience. Therefore you should be tender in such Cases, and take heed of acting any thing against your Knowledge, or to the Hurt of the Innocent; for we desire the Good of you all, that you may do justly, and fear the Lord, that when you come to give your Account to him, it may not be with Grief.

One of the Magistrates. *Don't bear them, Mr. Mayor, they would have all such as themselves.*

Answ. Paul, when he was before the King and Rulers, desired they had been altogether such as he was, except his Bonds.

Mag. *Ay, but Paul was no Quaker.*

Answ. But Paul was a Christian, and he said himself, that he was with the Corinthians, in Fear and much Trembling.

Mag. *No, Paul was no Quaker: The Pharisees were Quakers.*

Answ. The Pharisees were Persecutors, and haled the Servants of God before Rulers, and resisted the Holy One and the Just, and persecuted them that met in the Name of Jesus.

Mag. *Don't bear them: Take them away, Goaler.*

Answ. Well, we are willing to suffer for the Testimony of a good Conscience, and we desire nothing but well to you all; that you may do justly, and act nothing against the Lord nor his People.

So the Goaler took them away.

ANNO

ANNO 1663.

BRISTOL.
1663.

On the 29th of September this Year, John Knight entred upon his Mayoralty, who pursued the Quakers as earnestly, as if the Prosecution of them had been the chief Business of his Office. By his Authority the inferior Officers were constrained to act beyond their Inclination.

Mayoralty of J. Knight. Inferior Officers compelled to act. Meeting disturbed by the Militia.

On the 28th of November they came armed to the Meeting, many of the City Militia attending them, and sent from thence to the Guard Edward Pyott, George Oliver, John Gibbons, James Sterridge, Thomas Morris, John Spoor, Benjamin Cottle, Nehemiah Poole, Jeremy Hignell, George Bishop, Lewis Rogers, and Joseph Jones, whom they kept in the Wind and Cold till Evening, and then by the Mayor's Order sent them to Bridewell: Next Morning they were brought by the Keeper to the Council-house, and a Guard of Musqueteers were placed to keep out the People during their Examination: The Prisoners pleaded, that their Meetings had, by many Years Experience, been found peaceable, and free from giving any just Occasion of Offence to the Government: Nevertheless eight of them, first above named, were sent to Newgate for being at an unlawful Meeting, not taking the Oath of Allegiance, and refusing to give Sureties for their good Behaviour. The others, being Citizens, were released on Promise of appearing at the Sessions: After seven Days Confinement, the aforesaid eight were let at Liberty, upon some of the Citizens engaging to have them forthcoming.

Commitment of 8 Persons to Newgate.

On the 13th of December, the first of the Week, the Meeting-house Doors being shut up, and guarded by armed Men, they met in the Street, whence George Bishop, Edward Pyott, John Withers, Lewis Rogers, Nathaniel Day, George Gough, Thomas Goldney, John Summers, John Pickering, John Saunders, John Spoor, Thomas North, and Nathanael Milner, were sent to Bridewell, and next Day brought before the Mayor, who committed Edward Pyott and John Spoor to Prison for meeting, and refusing the Oath of Allegiance, and George Bishop and Lewis Rogers for meeting, and refusing to give Sureties for their good Behaviour.

Meeting in the Street. 13 Sent to Bridewell.

On the 27th, Thomas Speed, Charles Jones, and William Taylor, were taken at the Meeting, to whom the Magistrates tendred the Oath of Allegiance, and sent them to Prison for refusing it.

Oath tendred to three of them.

During their Imprisonment, George Bishop, and Thomas Speed, writ each of them a Letter to the Mayor, warning him in Christian Meekness, of the Evil of his Proceedings: George Bishop's Letter was as follows, viz.

G. Bishop's Letter to the Mayor.

Friend!

WE are innocent as to God, to Men, to thee; we live in all good Conscience, giving no just Occasion of Offence to any; the King, thy self, the Government, are safe in us: We desire your Welfare, God is Witness: Our Meetings are in Obedience to the Lord, and not in any Opposition to you, the Law or Government, the Searcher of Hearts knows it is Truth, who will render unto every Man according to his Deeds. Our refusing to Swear is in Obedience to the Lord, because the Law of him we cannot transgress: Our Behaviour has been in the Fear of the Lord, and no other Thing have you had from us: Our Conversation has been blameless as among Men, and we are clear as in the Sight of the Lord: We have not been an Oppression to this City, nor the Nation, nor to any Particular therein, but what in us lies, we have had Peace with all Men, and we desire the Destruction of none, but the Salvation of all, even our Enemies, whom we pray for, whom we bless, whom we love: We cannot resist Evil, because of him that has said, resist not Evil. We are in Peace; and we would be in Peace: Times have tried us: Revolutions, great Revolutions, the greatest Revolutions this Nation hath had, have proved us a People not dangerous to the Government, nor to the Peace of this Place. You have had no Hurt

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from

BRISTOL.
1663.

“ from us : We have done you no Hurt, God is Witness, and that of him in
 “ your Consciences, which shall one Day witness for us in you, that it is so,
 “ whether you will or no : We are ready to be offered up, as to all we have,
 “ or are, in the Testimony of the Lord, and the Dominion of him in our Con-
 “ sciences, which we cannot give, or bow, to Man that must die, nor to the
 “ Son of Man that must perish and come to nought, *whose Breath is in his*
 “ *Nostrils*, and wherein is he to be accounted of ? In other Things, (as we can
 “ in *Conscience to God*,) of which you yourselves are Witnesses, doing more
 “ than you have expected at our Hands, in some Things. As you know we
 “ are a considerable Body of People in this City, we, our Families, our Rela-
 “ tions, our Estates : We are of the City, and in the City, Inhabitants thereof,
 “ and interwoven are we therein, and with the People thereof, as a Man’s Flesh
 “ in his Body, and his Spirit in his Flesh : The Separation of us from the City
 “ will prove as of a Man’s Flesh from his Body, and his Spirit from his Flesh,
 “ when you have Liberty to do it from above (for you can do nothing at
 “ all as to us but as you have Power from above) you will see it ; the Day of
 “ God’s Vengeance is at hand, wherein he will render to every Man according
 “ to his Deeds : The Lord’s Controversy is with all those who oppugn his
 “ Dominion in the Consciences of Men, and he will pluck them up Root and
 “ Branch, and *they shall know that he is the Lord*. It is the Word of the Lord,
 “ and shall be fulfilled in its Season, and the Time is near. So, my Friend,
 “ take heed, there is no dallying in Things of this Nature, thou wilt find it so
 “ in the End, I desire it may be before it be too late ; for this I know assuredly,
 “ that the Lord will avenge the Quarrel of his People, and he will plead the
 “ Cause of those that suffer for his Name, and ye shall be rooted up, that
 “ rise up against them : It is the Word of the Lord, not with confused Noise,
 “ and Garments rolled in Blood, but by Burning and Fuel of Fire, by the
 “ Spirit of the Lord. Therefore take heed, I warn thee once more in the
 “ Name of the Lord, who am

“ *Thy Friend*

Newgate Prison in Bristol, the
15th of the tenth Month 1663.

“ GEORGE BISHOP.”

Thomas Speed’s Letter ran thus :

“ *Friend !*

T. Speed’s
Letter to the
Mayor.

“ **T**HE God of Heaven is not well pleased with thee, because thy Ways
 “ are not found right in his Sight ; the Innocent, who are to him as the
 “ Apple of his Eye, are by thee oppressed and afflicted. The same *Jesus*,
 “ against whom *Saul* zealously fought in the Time of his Ignorance, dost thou
 “ now persecute in his suffering Members, of which what can be the Conse-
 “ quence, (without *Paul*’s Repentance) but a fearful Expectation of Wrath
 “ and Judgment from the righteous God : The Sovereignty of the Great God,
 “ over the Consciences of Men, dost thou violently attempt to invade, and to
 “ usurp to thy self, who art a Man that must die, and the Son of Man whose
 “ Breath is in thy Nostrils, and dost thou judge thy self stronger than
 “ the Almighty ? Consider, O Man, what thou art now doing, ere it be too
 “ late, and there be no Place left for Repentance. *They that live godly in Christ*
 “ *Jesus, shall suffer Persecution* ; as say the Scriptures, but woe unto him or
 “ them by whom they suffer, better for them, unless they repent, that they had
 “ never been born, and that the Womb that bare them had been their Grave,
 “ that they might never have seen the Light : Think seriously with thy self,
 “ how thou wilt be able to stand in Judgment with him, who is a consuming
 “ Fire, in the Day when he shall come to plead with thee the Cause of the In-
 “ nocent. Will it then suffice for thine Acquittance to say, that *thou hadst a*
 “ *Law*, and by that *Law* they ought to suffer ? Was not holy *Daniel* hurried
 “ into the Lions Den, and the three faithful Children into the Furnace, by a
 “ Law ? And will the Judge of all the Earth accept of that Plea from the

“ Executioners

“ Executioners of that Law so as to acquit them? Did not the Murderers of
 “ Jesus Christ, in whose Mouth never was Guile found, say, *We have a Law,*
 “ *and by our Law he ought to die,* but did that save them from the Wrath of
 “ God his Father, so as that he hath not since sorely visited his innocent Blood
 “ upon them, and their Children, in the View of all Nations? Will not Bonner,
 “ and his Accomplices, be found *not guilty* before the Tribunal of the Al-
 “ mighty, if this Plea prove valid, who ruined the Estates, and consumed into
 “ Ashes in the Flames, the Bodies of many holy Martyrs, during the Time of
 “ the *Marian* Persecution? By him who made Heaven and Earth, must both
 “ the Law, and thou, and we, be judged, and then nothing but that which
 “ is righteous in his Sight will stand and abide his Trial, and then will that
 “ very Law which he hath engraven in thy Heart, judge thee, which saith,
 “ *Whatsoever thou wouldst that Men should do unto thee, do thou even the same*
 “ *unto them,* which whether thou dost now practise, *we leave to the Lord,* and
 “ to his Witnesses in thee, and in the Consciences of all sober-minded Persons
 “ within this City, to judge and determine. Let me yet farther reason with
 “ thee, and be not offended, for in tender Love to thy immortal Soul, (the
 “ Lord is my Witness) do I write these Things. Hast thou the Spirit of Christ?
 “ If not, sad is thy Condition, for *he that hath not the Spirit of Christ,* as saith
 “ the Scripture, *is none of his:* If thou hast it, O then, where are thy Fruits?
 “ The Fruits of the holy Spirit are *Love, Gentleness, Meekness, Long-suffering,*
 “ *Mercifulness, Forgiveness, &c.* This Spirit never prompted or prevailed with
 “ any Man to persecute others for Conscience-sake: They in whom this Spirit
 “ dwelt in all Ages were *persecuted,* but never found *Persecutors; envied,* but
 “ not *envying; hated,* but not *Haters* of others; *suffering* for the Matters of
 “ their God, but not causing others to *suffer.* Paul, who had this Spirit,
 “ speaking of Things appertaining to Conscience, saith, *Let every Man be*
 “ *fully persuaded in his own Mind* [mark that] *Every one of us shall give an*
 “ *Account of himself to God.* Rom. xiv. 5, 12. *And as you have received Christ*
 “ *Jesus, walk in him.* Col. ii. 6. By this Spirit the Apostle Peter said, *Be*
 “ *subject to every Ordinance of Man for the Lord's Sake.* And the same Peter,
 “ by the same Spirit, being commanded by the Rulers not to speak at all, or
 “ teach in the Name of *Jesus,* did, (choosing rather to obey God than Man)
 “ speak openly and boldly in his Name. Weigh these Things in a cool un-
 “ prejudiced Spirit, and hearken to, and O that thou mightest also know, the
 “ Things that do belong to the Peace of thy precious Soul, in this thy Day,
 “ whilst thou art on this Side the Grave. Remember, O remember, in whose
 “ Hands is the Breath of thy Nostrils, who can soon turn thee into Dust.
 “ Thou knowest not how soon the King of Terrors may knock at thy Door,
 “ with a Commission from the Lord to remove thee from the Land of the
 “ Living, and then Peace with thy Maker, against whom thou art now con-
 “ tending, will be more worth than the whole World, but not then to be
 “ purchased with all the Treasures thereof. I say therefore again, despise not
 “ the Friendly Advice of him, whilst thou hast yet a Season, who in Heart
 “ desireth thine eternal Welfare, lest when thou comest to lay thine Head upon
 “ thy Death-Pillow, and the Terrors of the Almighty seize on thee, thou
 “ shouldst then cry unto the Lord for Mercy, and he should say unto thee, *My*
 “ *Love often called upon thee, and thou wouldst not bear, in the Day of thy out-*
 “ *ward Prosperity: I would have won thee with Kindness, but thou wouldst not*
 “ *hearken.* Now therefore I will stop mine Ears at thy Cry: *Reap the Fruits of*
 “ *thine own Works, and let Misery be thy Portion unto Eternity.* Hear, and fear
 “ the Lord, and despise not the Counsel of him, who is truly breathing in his
 “ Heart to the Lord, for the Salvation of thy precious Soul, and in the Lord
 “ wisheth well to thee and thine.

From Newgate Prison, the 31st
 of the tenth Month 1663.

“ THOMAS SPEED.”

This

BRISTOL.
1663.

Bills of Indictment found at Sessions.
Trials of T. Speed, C. Jones, and W. Taylor.

T. Speed's Speech to the Jury.

Verdict.

Mayor enraged at the Prisoners Acquittal.

Trial of G. Bishop, and 8 others.

This plain manner of Dealing, though from Men for Reputation in the City, nothing inferior to himself (excepting his Office) was little regarded by the Mayor, nor did he desist from his wonted Violence.

At the Sessions on the 12th of the Month called January, the grand Jury, chosen by the Mayor's Influence, found Bills of Indictment against the Prisoners. Thomas Speed, Charles Jones, and William Taylor, were called to the Bar, and their Indictment was read, charging them with being at an unlawful Assembly with Force and Arms to the Terror of the People, &c. To which they pleaded not guilty. A Jury was impanelled and sworn: The Witnesses were two Sergeants of the Militia, who took them at the Meeting. The Prisoners Council insisted on the Illegality of their first Apprehension, being by Militia Officers in Time of Peace, but that Plea was over-ruled.

The Substance of the Prisoners Defence is contained in the following Speech of Thomas Speed to the Jury, viz.

"To you that are our Neighbours and Fellow-Citizens, of the Jury, I have a few Words to offer. We might justly except against some of you, particularly against thee * John Toogood, who didst lately speak such Things touching us, not fit to be named in this Court, but we freely forgive thee, and desire the Lord to forgive thee also, to whom we commit our selves and our Case. That we were at a Meeting in Broadmead, the Place expressed in the Indictment, we may not deny, but do confess, being there in the Fear of the Lord, and in Good-will towards all Men, in Good-will to the King (against whom we are accused to be Trespassers) to whom from our Hearts we wish Happiness, that he may so reign and rule in the Fear of God, that he may live in his Favour, and die in his Peace, and may have an Habitation with him when Time shall be no more. You have Families, Relations, and Estates; we have Families, Relations and Estates: Weigh well out of all Prejudice, and consider what you are about to do as touching us. Suppose with your selves, that the Verdict you are now going to consult of, may be the last that ever you may give in this World; and that when you have brought in your Verdict on us, you your selves should immediately appear before the high Tribunal of the God of Heaven: Go therefore, and do that wherein you may have Peace with your Maker when you shall go hence, and be no more seen."

The Jury having consulted, brought in their Verdict, not guilty of Force and Arms to the Terror of the People, but guilty of an unlawful Assembly. With which the Court not being satisfied, they returned, and expressed themselves thus, NOT GUILTY according to the Indictment. Many of the People present expressing their Satisfaction at the Acquittal of the Prisoners, so offended the Mayor, that he cried out in a Passion, I cannot endure to sit here, and see my Sovereign's Laws trampled under Foot; and turning to the Prisoners, asked them, whether they would take the Oath of Allegiance? This he did with a Design to send them again to Prison, but the other Justices would not consent so to ensnare those whom the Jury had acquitted.

Next Day, George Bishop, Edward Pyott, John Gibbons, Nehemiah Poole, George Oliver, Thomas Morris, James Sterridge, Benjamin Cottle, and John Spoore, were indicted in like manner, and pleaded not guilty, the Town-Clerk asked, Whether they would proceed to Trial now, or traverse it? They answered, Presently, if you please: To which the Court agreed.

The Plea of the Prisoners is expressed in the following Speech of Edward Pyott to the Jury, viz.

"You

* This Man, when George Bishop was committed, was heard to say, that he hoped to see him hang'd: And a little before the Sessions he said in the Presence of some of the Prisoners, that the Mayor had spoke to him to be one of their Godfathers, and that he would warrant he'd do their Work for 'em.

BRISTOL.

1663.

E. Pyott's
Speech to the
Jury.

“ You by the Court are made our Judges, and the matter of Fact, for
 “ which we are called in Question this Day, is not criminal, nor any matter
 “ of Dishonesty, but only for our meeting together in the Worship and Ser-
 “ vice of God, and nothing more than barely meeting together is proved
 “ against us, to which our selves have confessed before Proof was made, and
 “ as our meeting together in such a manner, and to such Ends as is declared in
 “ the Indictment, hath been by us denied, so that it is altogether without
 “ Proof to you : That which you are chiefly to consider of in order to your
 “ Verdict is, Whether or not we were met together in Manner and Form ac-
 “ cording as is declared in the Indictment. As to the manner of our Meeting,
 “ it was not with Force and Arms, as you your selves in your own Consciences
 “ know, but we met together in the Fear of the Lord, and to no other End
 “ than only God's Worship and Service, and therefore take heed what you do,
 “ striving against the Lord ; for God will be worshipped and served as himself
 “ pleaseth, and by his own Direction and Prescription, in Spirit and in Truth,
 “ for Things may be highly esteemed among Men, which are abominable in
 “ the Sight of God ; and it is not in the Power of any Creature to prescribe
 “ to his Maker, how he shall be served and worshipped. It is enough for the
 “ greatest of Men to prescribe their own Homage, and to direct their own
 “ Service, and to leave that which concerns the Worship and Service of God
 “ unto God himself, and to his own Prescription and Direction, who alone is
 “ Lawgiver to all, and Judge over all Things, which concern his own Wor-
 “ ship and Service, and whom we chuse to obey rather than Men.”

Here the Mayor interrupted him, crying out with some Vehemence, *I cannot endure to sit here, and hear a Religion instilled into the Court, a Religion contrary to the Laws of the Kingdom, adding, that the Laws of England were the supreme Conscience of England.*

The Court being still again, *Edward* proceeded,

“ And forasmuch as it is often proposed in Courts of Judicature to the Pri-
 “ soners at the Bar, to be tried by God and their Country, in which Words it
 “ is acknowledged that God is the supreme Judge, and that the Verdict and
 “ Sentence ought to be of the Lord : Mind the Lord therefore, and his Pre-
 “ sence with you, and Counsel to guide you, that the Lord may judge among
 “ you, that so your Verdict concerning us may be of the Lord.”

George Bishop also spoke thus to the Jury :

“ Friends, you have Consciences of your own, according unto which you
 “ would worship God, and you would not take it well, if some such Thing
 “ as hath been done, and is now doing to us, should be done to you for wor-
 “ shipping God according to your Consciences : Now, what faith the Judge
 “ of all, *Whatsoever ye would that Men should do unto you, do ye even the same*
 “ *unto them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.* And so I shall leave you.”

G. Bishop's
Speech to the
Jury.

The King's Council made a long Speech against the Prisoners, representing them as dangerous Persons, and endeavouring to incense the Jury against them.

The Jury withdrew, and after some Time returned with this Verdict, *Guilty of being at an unlawful Assembly according to the Laws of the Land, but not of Force and Arms, nor to the Terror of the People.*

The Verdict being received, the Prisoners desired *the Record of it might be read*, which was done, and it appeared, that the Mayor had caused the former Part only to be recorded, viz. *Guilty of being at an unlawful Assembly according to the Laws of the Land.* They insisted upon a Record of the Whole, or that the Jury might write it themselves, or else go out again. So the Jury withdrew again, and tarried a considerable Time, and then brought in the same Verdict as before, which being *special*, the Validity of it should have been argued before Judgment had passed : But the Mayor on the 15th of the same Month passed

Partial Entry
of the Jury's
Verdict.

BRISTOL.
1663.

Sentence
passed upon
a special
Verdict.

Illegal Barba-
rity toward 3
innocent Men.

Commitment
of Joane
Hiley,

and of Roger
Oldstone.

10 Persons
sent from the
Meeting to
Prison.
Others nailed
up in the
Meeting-
house.

1664.

15 Committed
to Newgate.

Trial and
Verdict.

Sentence thereupon, viz. That *Edward Pyott*, and *George Bishop*, should pay a Fine of 50 l. each; *John Gibbons*, and *Nebemiah Poole*, 5 l. each; *John Spore*, *George Oliver*, *James Sterridge*, *Thomas Morris*, and *Benjamin Cottle*, 40 s. each; and that they should all continue in Prison till Payment. He also sent to Prison again those whom the Jury had acquitted, where they lay about a Fortnight after.

We observed before, the Mayor's Influence in the Choice of the grand Jury, one of whom, *Thomas Smart*, Captain Lieutenant to a Colonel of the *Militia*, had probably recommended himself for that Service, by an unusual and illegal Barbarity on three innocent Men, viz. *Samuel Hollister*, *William Sawyer*, Servant to *Robert Nokes*, and *Richard Mercer*, Servant to the Widow *Laverell*. These Persons, being in several Shops on the Day called *Christmas-day*, when the Officers came to shut them up, were carried to the Guard, where, by Order of this Captain *Smart*, they were unmercifully tied Neck and Heels, with half hundred Weights and Muskets about their Necks, in extreme cold Weather, till the Eyes of two of them were thought to be drawing out, their Faces being black, and their Lives in Danger, which some of the Townsmen observing, cut the Cords and released them when they were ready to expire. This Cruelty was acted by *Smart*, without the Consent of the other Officers of the *Militia*, who were generally moderate, and acted only as pushed on by the Mayor. Soon after this the *Militia* were disbanded, and were glad to be dismissed from a Service they were weary of.

On the 10th of the Month called *February*, the Mayor sent *Joane Hiley* to Prison by a *Mittimus*, charging her with disturbing Mr. *Godwyn* Minister of St. *Philip's*, depraving the Book of Common-prayer, and refusing to find Sureties for appearing at the next Sessions: Though she had only spoken a few Words at the Burial of a Neighbour, at which the Parson took no Offence, nor would have complained of, had not the Mayor sent for him, and importuned him to inform against her.

He also caused *Roger Oldstone* to be taken in the Street, and when brought before him, enquired, whether he was at the Meeting last Sunday? He answering, *It may be I was*, the Mayor without more ado sent him to Goal.

About the same Time the Mayor, with two Aldermen, and some Officers, came to the Meeting, and sent thence to Prison, *Thomas Atkins*, *Benjamin Maynard*, *John Brooks*, *John Johns*, *Andrew Vivers*, *Susan Gotby*, *Josep Kippin*, *Solomon Huntington*, *Eleanor Maud*, and *Elizabeth Wilkinson*, leaving many others in the Meeting, upon whom he ordered his Officers to nail up the Doors, and keep them there till next Day. One *William Wells*, for speaking to the Officers, was also committed to Prison. At the Sessions on the 18th, the Mayor preferred Bills of Indictment against seven of those lately taken at the Meeting, but the grand Jury would not find them. *Joane Hiley* was tried, but acquitted, the Priest himself declaring, that he heard some Body speak, but he could not say it was she.

ANNO 1664.

On the 13th of the Month called *June*, *William Ford*, *Nathanael Milner*, *John Love*, *Samuel Taylor*, *William James*, *Joseph Moore*, *John Johns*, *Israel Bird*, *Robert Claxton*, *Thomas Jaques*, alias *Jackson*, *William Emblin*, *Joseph Cannings*, *Henry Prichard*, *Andrew Sowle*, and *Thomas Atkins*, were committed by the Mayor to Newgate for being at an unlawful Assembly, * resisting the Officers sent to disperse them, and refusing Sureties for their good Behaviour. Upon this Charge they were brought to Trial at the Sessions about a Month after. The Jury brought in their Verdict in Writing, and gave it the Clerk, who, when the Prisoners asked what it was, answered, *Guilty of an unlawful Assembly*, though

* Which they did not.

though the Jury had added, *but not of Force and Arms, nor to the Terror of the People*, which Part the Court took no Notice of, but fined the Prisoners 10 s. each, and sent them back to Goal.

In this Year the Parliament passed another Act for banishing the *Quakers*, which the Mayor, a Member of the House of Commons, was very active in promoting, and it was said, wept for Joy at the passing of it. That Act was to commence on the 1st of July 1664, before which Time he was heard to say, *that he now hoped to send four Hundred Quakers out of the Land before the Expiration of his Mayoralty*, ; of which he had but three Months to come, in which short Time he committed to Prison,

On Conviction for the first Offence, two Hundred and nineteen Persons, whose Names in the Index annexed to this Volume are thus distinguish'd (C. 1.).

On Conviction for the second Offence, after a Month's Imprisonment for the first, one Hundred and five Persons, whose Names are mark'd (C. 2.).

And in order to a Conviction for the third Offence, after Conviction for a first and second, twenty three Persons ; whose Names are mark'd (C. 3.).

Had he continued longer in his Office, he would probably have procured the Banishment of these and many more, but his expiring Authority gave him Opportunity of convicting only three of them for the third Offence, viz. *Cananial Britton, Bartholomew Crocker, and Lewis Rogers*. These three were put on Shipboard to be transported, but the Seamen refused to carry them, and put them on Shore with the following Certificate, viz.

“ THESE are to certify all and every Person, unto whom this present Writing may or shall come, That there were three Persons called *Quakers*, viz. *Cananial Britton, Bartholomew Crocker, and Lewis Rogers*, brought on board our Ship, called the *Mary Fortune* of Bristol, the 16th of December 1664, and continued waiting on our Ship until the 23d of the same Month.

“ Then there came a Stay for all Ships, so we put them on Shore again ; and on the 31st of December we received a Pass from his Royal Highness the Duke of York, to proceed on our Voyage, and then they were brought into our Ship again by John Toogood Water-Bayliff, and have continued on board our Ship until this present 7th of January ; and now by reason of the long continued Press, we could in no wise deny the taking them on board. But now going to depart, their Cry, and the Cry of their Family and Friends, are entred into the Ears of the Lord, and he hath smitten us even to the very Heart, saying, *Curst is he that parteth Man and Wife*.

“ And moreover, they that oppress his People, his Plagues shall follow them wheresoever they go, and assuredly we do in Part partake of them already, for our Consciences will in no wise let us rest, nor be in quiet, for the Lord hath smitten us with a terrible Fear, so that we can in no wise proceed to carry them.

“ And moreover, we do wholly believe, that our most gracious Sovereign doth not intend in the least to destroy his Subjects, because he hath not made void that Law of the Nation, which saith, *No Englishman shall be carried out of his Country against his Will, and he or they that do so carry them shall forfeit great Penalties*. And farther we know, that there is a Law in the Barba- does, that *whosoever doth bring any Person or Persons into the aforesaid Island against their Will, and not being bound by Indenture, shall be under such Penalties as the Law doth inflict upon them, and also be enforced to bring them back unto their Habitations again*.

“ And we also know, that they are innocent Persons, and do desire to walk in the Fear of the Lord, and that they are put on board our Ship against their Wills, neither are they bound by any Indenture, neither hath any one agreed for their Passage : And we find that our Master hath no Order under any one's Hand to save him and us from coming under such Penalties, as the Law may inflict upon us for carrying them in this Nature. For these Rea-
“ sons

BRISTOL.
1664.

Fines.
Another Act
for Banishing
the Quakers.

The Mayor's
Earnestness to
execute it.

Many convict-
ed on that Act.

Conviction of
three for the
third Offence.

Certificate of
Seamen re-
fusing to
transport
them.

BRISTOL.
1664.

“ sons and many more, we have put them on Shore, not that they have made
“ any Escape, but that we have set them at Liberty, to go whither they will:
“ As Witness our Hands this 7th of January 1664.

John Lloyd
Thomas Moody
William Smith
Philip Philips

Thomas Hughes
Richard Love
Thomas Sands.

Close and un-
healthy Im-
prisonment.

The others who remained in Prison at the Expiration of his Mayoralty, about one Hundred and forty five in Number, in process of Time obtained their Liberty, the succeeding Mayors for several Years after being more moderate; and the Meetings in this City continued generally free from Molestation. For the violent Proceedings of this Mayor were altogether disliked by many of the Citizens, and the Inhabitants in general were grieved to see such great Numbers of sober, peaceable, and many of them very substantial Persons, thrust by Heaps into Prison, where they were so crowded in Heat of Summer, that it was thought dangerous to the Health, not of the Prisoners only, but of the City. *Bridewell* was so full of them, that fifty five Women there had but four or five Beds to lie on, near thirty lying on the Boards or Floor about the Beds in one Chamber; and the Place, by reason of its Nastiness before, which they had not Time to clean, being suddenly sent thither, was filled with Vermin, and the Multitudes of People going up and down increased the Filth. This was very hard to Women of Substance and Credit, accustomed to live neatly: *Newgate* also was so full of them and other Prisoners, that they could not have necessary Accommodations: Through this close and unhealthy Confinement one young Woman died, whose lamentable Case is next to be related. viz.

Death of
Lydia
Toovey.

Lydia Toovey, who being very big with Child, the unwholsom Scent of the Goal affected her at her first coming in. She grew very ill, and Symptoms of a Miscarriage appeared; which, though her Brother, who was a Common-council-man of the City, and her Mother a Widow, whose only Daughter she was, acquainted the Mayor of, yet he would not admit of her Removal till it was too late: When, understanding by the Keeper, that her Life was in Danger, he bad him *turn her out*: Which being done, she lay a Day or two in a sad Condition: Her Infant came dead from her, and she soon after expired. The ill Scent of the Goal was the apparent Cause of the Death of both Mother and Child.

Death of
Alice Peachy
and Mary
Knight.

Another young Woman, also great with Child, died of the hard Usage she met with, viz. *Alice*, the Wife of *William Peachy*, who being at the Meeting, from whence her Husband was sent to Prison, one of the Officers rudely haled her toward the Mayor, while another behind pushed her forward beyond her Strength, and hurt her, so that her Countenance was observed by some present to discover her Illness. She went Home, and was delivered of a Child the next Day, but never recovered, dying about seven Days after. Also *Mary Knight*, a Maid-servant, was carried sick from *Bridewell* to her Master's House, and there died within twelve Days after.

1670.

ANNO 1670.

In this Year another Act came forth against Conventicles, whence the Adversaries of this People took fresh Occasion to molest them, as appears by the following *Extract* of a Letter dated

“ BRISTOL the 29th of the fifth Month 1670.

Extract of a
Letter from
Bristol.

“ **W**E are in this City wholly deprived of our Meeting-houses, and do con-
“ stantly meet in the Streets before the Doors of the Meeting-houses,
“ which Doors every First-day are guarded with Soldiers, who suffer us not to
“ come into the Entry, nor sometimes near the Doors, but are pretty peaceable
“ in

“ in the Streets ; only some Informers commonly come there taking Names,
 “ and they say, we are often fined upon a Record at the *Tolzey*, but we
 “ are never called before them, nor know what, nor by whom, Things are
 “ sworn against us, neither hath any Distress been taken yet that I know, but
 “ threatned : I suppose they look for Precedent of the Mayor of *London*. Last
 “ First-day, *M. Bradshaw*, that was lately with the King, beginning to speak,
 “ was rudely taken by the Soldiers to the Guard, and so were *S. Pearson* and
 “ *Jane Batbo*, and kept there till near Night, and then sent to *Bridewell*, and
 “ there remain. *Charles Marshall* also was taken up by a Priest on a Writ for
 “ 20*l.* per Month for Absence from their Church : All Friends else are at
 “ Liberty : Truth prospers more than before. The Professors, *Presbyterians*,
 “ *Independents*, and *Baptists*, have forsaken their Meetings on First-days in the
 “ City, and get out into the Highways without its Liberties, and there meet,
 “ some Thousands in a Place, as is reported. Friends about *Olveston*, *Winter-*
 “ *bourn*, *Parshutt*, *Keinsbam*, and other Places, be in much Sufferings, and
 “ much Cattle is taken from them, and brought into this Market to sell, fix,
 “ eight, or ten in a Drove ; which when wild People of the World come to
 “ know, they commonly get about them to shame the Sellers what they can,
 “ and sometimes offer Three-half-pence a piece, Three-pence, or Four-pence
 “ at most, and then on Condition too, that they will have the Sellers at the
 “ same Rate to send to *Barbadoes* : And so after a while the Cattle is sent away
 “ usually to the Justices Grounds, till some base Man or other, not worth
 “ half a Cow, can be got to buy an whole Parcel for about half the Worth :
 “ *John Tyler* of *Frampton*, had four good Cows taken so, and many other
 “ Friends fined a deal, for *Thomas Robertson's* Preaching in one Meeting or
 “ other.”

BRISTOL.
1670.

ANNO 1671.

A Letter dated from *Bristol* the 18th of the second Month this Year, gives the following Account, viz.

“ OUR Meetings here are for the most Part attended with those Men,
 “ (Informer) that usually come among us. But one of them (viz. the
 “ tall sickly Man) is never likely to come among us more, there being no Ap-
 “ pearance of Life for him. He is in very great Horror, for what he has done
 “ to Friends, and confessed the same to several that went to see him : Some
 “ gave him Money, which he gladly received, being very poor, and wished
 “ the Makers of that Law had been at the utmost Parts of the Earth when
 “ they made it, and said, *If God spared his Life, he would never do us any Hurt*.
 “ His Wife also said, that he was always much troubled and tormented in Mind
 “ when he came from Meetings.”

Extract of
another Letter
from Bristol.

ANNO 1678.

After six Years Enjoyment of their Meetings in Peace and Quietness, some of this People were again prosecuted on several Pretences : In this Year *William Itbell* and *James Pounsett* were prosecuted in the Bishop's Court, because they had been married otherwise than according to the Liturgy of the Church of *England*, and were severally committed to Prison on Writs *de Excommunicato capiendo*. And in the Month of *December* this Year, *Richard Snead* being summoned before the Justices for refusing to bear Arms, had the Oath of Allegiance tendred him, and for refusing to Swear was sent to Prison.

1678.
Persecution
renewed.

Prosecutions
for Marriage,

and for not
bearing Arms.

ANNO 1679.

Paul Moon, for speaking to *Richard Tompson*, Vicar of *Thomas's* Parish in *Bristol*, after his Sermon, in the publick Worship-house there, was committed to Prison for three Months, and till the Quarter Sessions then next following, from
 Vol. I. whence

1679.
Imprisonment
of Paul
Moon.

BRISTOL.
1679.

whence he was recommitted to remain there without Bail or Main-prize, till he should be reconciled and penitent for that pretended Offence.

1680.

Imprisonment
on Writs de
Excommuni-
cato capien-
do.

ANNO 1680.

In October this Year, *Paul Vickris, Edward Erberry, William Hill, and Paul Moon*, were imprisoned on Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*: At which Time also about twenty others, Inhabitants of *Bristol*, Men of considerable Trade, stood excommunicated, and Processes were expected against them.

1681.

Violent Pro-
ceedings for
Meetings in
Bristol.

ANNO 1681.

and for
Charges of
the Militia.Meeting-house
spoiled.Another
Meeting-house
plunder'd.Seizures of
Goods.Imprisonment
of J. Moon.

In this Year the Sufferings for religious Meetings in this City were very numerous, a most violent Prosecution being promoted and carried on by *John Knight Sheriff, John Helliar Attorney at Law, the Town-Clerk, Robert Bleanearn Register of the Bishop's Court, John Tilly, Thomas Luggs, Edward Brand, William Higgins, Ralph Olliffe jun. Jasper Cass, Walter Watkins Marshal of the train'd Bands, John Hoare, John Patrick, and others*. They began, on the 14th of *December*, with a Pretence of levying 5*l.* laid on the Meeting-house in *James's Parish*, toward the Charges of the train'd Bands, under which Colour they seized the Seats, Forms, Stools, and Chairs, breaking many of them; encouraged the Boys to break the Glass Windows, carried away what they pleased, and burnt the rest. On the 18th *Sheriff Knight, Helliar, and others*, came to the Meeting, threw away the Mens Hats, beat *Canaan Britton* an ancient Man, with a Cane, threw him down and bruised him much. After which the Sheriff sent him to *Newgate*. On the 20th they plundered the Dwelling of *Elizabeth Batha Widow*, Part of the Meeting-house, threw out Part of her Goods, and took away the Doors of the Meeting-house. The Damage done now and before was computed at 60*l.* On the 23d, finding *Hannah Marshall* at Prayer, they took her away, and carried her to *Newgate*. On the 25th they broke down one of the Pillars of the Gallery, and sent a young Man to Prison. On the 27th they set Guards on the Meeting-house, took a List of the Names of three Hundred and twenty Persons, and turned them out. After which they broke the Galleries, and carried away the Doors and Partitions: They also broke the Glass Windows of the Tenement, and threw out the Remainder of the poor Widow's Goods. On the 30th they made farther Spoil, obliged the poor Widow to leave the demolished House, which she held by Lease, and put another Person in Possession of it.

On the 1st of the Month called *January*, they made the like Havock at the Meeting house in *Temple-Street*. On the 3d they seized the Meeting-house in *James's Parish* (as they said) for the King, fastned up the Door places with Boards and Sticks, and set Men to keep Possession, who went in and out at a Window. On the 8th they tore in pieces the rest of the Windows and Galleries of the Meeting-house in *Temple-Street*, in so riotous a manner, that they affrighted the Neighbours: One of whom, a Woman of good Account, and a Frequenter of the National Worship, wept much, and in an Agony of Grief cried out, *Leave off, leave off, these Doings will bring God's Plagues upon us*. The Damage done to the Meeting-houses was computed at 150*l.* All this was without Law, the Pretence of charging those Houses to the train'd Bands, being only feigned to palliate their illegal Actions. They raised Riots, and accused the Persons insulted as the Authors of them: *Helliar* sent a modest Maid to *Bridewell* for giving a Box on the Ear to a rude Boy treating her indecently. They took from seven Persons within five Days, above one Hundred Pounds-worth of Goods; fining some for the pretended Poverty of others. They prosecuted fifty as *Popish* Recusants, in order to run them to a *Premunire*. On the 14th they took from *Erasmus Dole*, Goods worth 20*l.* and others were fined 20*l.* for *Hannah Marshall's* Praying in the Meeting. On the 23d *John Moon* was sent to Prison on the *Oxford Act*, and *Griffith Jones*, a Trader from *London*, being taken at a Meeting

Meeting, had the Oath of Allegiance tendered him, at the Motion of the Bishop, and for refusing it was sent to Goal. At the same Meeting, *Helliar*, the Town-Clerk, and others, were very abusive, and tore the Women's Scarves. On the 29th *Katharine Evans*, *Joane Hely*, *Elizabeth Harford*, and *Margaret Thomas*, with fourteen others, were sent to *Bridewell*, and ten more to *Newgate*.

Thomas Robertson was sent to Prison by the Bishop for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance.

On the 6th of the Month called *February*, *Helliar*, and others, came to the Meeting at the *Friars*, where he took *Robert Gerish*, an ancient Man, brought him among the Women, scoffingly bid him Preach, and calling him *Pope* and *Friar*, and the Women *Whores*, violently drew them out, and sent them to *Bridewell*. At the same Time with repeated Abuses insulting them, and tearing their Hoods and Scarves. On the 12th at a Meeting in *Temple-Street*, he confined the Men, and disperst the Women, driving them as if he had been driving Cattle, crying *P'throw*, to make himself Sport. At this Meeting *Elizabeth Jaques* had her Arms sorely pinch'd, and *Thomas Hayes* was sent to *Bridewell*.

On the 15th the Prisoners in *Newgate* presented a *Petition* or *Complaint*, as follows :

“ To Sir Thomas Earle Mayor, and the rest of the Justices of
“ the City of Bristol.

“ WE here present unto you the Complaint of many oppressed Prisoners
“ in this your Goal of *Newgate*, for what Cause is not unknown to you,
“ concerning the grievous Straits for Lodging, being most of us thronged in
“ two Rooms, the one filled with nine Beds, the other about thirteen Foot
“ square, with seven Beds; sometimes there have been three, sometimes four,
“ in a Bed, whilst others sat up : The Sense whereof, together with the Ne-
“ cessities for want of Room, convenient for Work, that our poor Friends are
“ driven to, with the Fulness and Closeness of the Goal in general, which by
“ reason of its Unhealthiness, has been several Times presented by the grand
“ Jury : And there being now above Fourscore Prisoners, puts us upon renew-
“ ing our modest Complaint unto you, and yet at the same Time acknowledg-
“ ing your Compassion in granting an Order of Sessions for the Enlargement
“ of the Goal, which we might reasonably have expected would have speedily
“ ensued; but contrary thereto, notwithstanding all our Endeavours with the
“ Goaler, to the Satisfaction of Sheriff *Lane*, we cannot as yet obtain what you
“ have thought fit to grant us : So unless you are pleased to see your said
“ Order of Sessions effected (which is what we hereby desire of you) we are
“ like to have our *Lives* and *Healts* exposed for want of reasonable Accom-
“ modations, who are

From *Newgate Prison*, the 14th
of the 12th Month 1681.

Your Christian Friends,

Richard Snead	Edward Erberry	Richard Vickris	John Moon
James Wall	Richard Reighley	Edward Jones	John Bennett
John Philbridge	William Dedicott	Thomas Window	Jesse Noble
Philip Russell	John Bulgin	John Simmons	Miles David
Thomas Dixon	John Herne	John Rush	Joseph Hale
Joseph Wilcox	Thomas Arnold	Thomas Willis	John Barnes
John Watts	Joseph Bennett	William Taylor	Robert Lux
Henry James	Thomas Robertson	Hugh Bickham	Edward Dowell
John Sumption	Joseph Paskall	George Bennett	James Gayner
Arthur Ruffel	Clement Oliver	Paul Moon	William Brigg
John Cowling	Nicholas Taylor.		

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1681.

Imprisonment
of G. Jones.
19 Sent to
Bridewel, and
10 to New-
gate.

Helliar's
Cruelty and
Wanronness.

Petition of
the Prisoners
in Newgate
to the Mayor.

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1681.

Certificate of
the Delivery
of that Peti-
tion.

The Success of this Complaint was frustrated by the overbearing Power of Sheriff Knight, and others of his Party, as appears by the following Certificate, viz.

“WE whose Names are hereunto subscribed, do severally testify and declare, that on the 15th Day of this Instant Month of February, in the 34th Year of the Reign of our sovereign Lord King Charles the Second, over England, &c. Annoq. Dom. 1681, the annexed Complaint or Petition was delivered in at the Tolzey of the City of Bristol, and publickly read by Order of Sir Thomas Earle Knight, Mayor of the said City, Sir Robert Cann Knight and Baronet, John Lawford Esq; John Hicks Esq; Aldermen, &c. his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said City and County. Which said Sir Thomas Earle Mayor, and the said other Justices then present, did, in the said Court of Tolzey, openly declare their Dissatisfaction concerning the said Goal, esteeming it as an unfit and an unhealthy Prison, and of dangerous Consequence to the Lives of his Majesty's Subjects: And did then not only declare their Willingness to have the same enlarged, but also require their late Order of Sessions, touching the same Goal, to be put in Execution, which Richard Lane Esq; one of the Sheriffs of the said City, declared his Readiness to yield Obedience to, being of the same Judgment and Opinion with the said Justices: But it was rejected and refused by Sheriff Knight, who is the only Obstrueter. Witness our Hands this 15th of February 1681.

John Blissett

Andrew Wyke jun.

William Weaver

Richard Ridley

Henry Weaver

Anthony Reece.

The Mayor's
Protest against
private Con-
victions, &c.

The Mayor at this Time declared his Purpose, that all Convictions for the future should be publick, and not privately made in Taverns and Alehouses: He also entered his Protest against such Convictions, and against the Goal as altogether unfit for such Prisoners.

On the 18th the Mayor demanded of Sheriff Knight, an Account of the Convictions made to that Time, which Knight refused: Wherefore the Mayor caused a Record to be made of such Demand and Refusal: The Mayor also declared, that he would have no more private Convictions; and that Goods distrained should be deposited in a publick Warehouse, that he would have an Account of the Sale of them, that they might be sold to their full Value, and justly accounted for. This highly displeased Knight, Helliar, and others, who thereupon threatned the Mayor with opposing his Interest at the next Election.

On the 25th were taken

Fines levied.

From Richard Snead, for Fines of 17 l. 10 s. Goods worth 24 l.

Edward Martindale, for 6 l. 13 s. Goods worth 13 l.

Richard Vickris, for 7 l. Goods to the Value of 18 l.

Many Com-
mitments for
Meeting.

On the 26th Barbara Blagdon was sent from the Meeting in the Morning to Bridewell, as were also twelve others for continuing their Meeting in the Street: In the Afternoon they sent thirty more to Bridewell, and about ten at Night committed forty from thence to Newgate, whose Entertainment there, is described in the following Certificate from several Neighbours who visited them, viz.

Certificate of
the hard Usage
of the Pri-
soners.

“WE whose Names are hereunto subscribed, have daily heard of the renewed Complaints of the People called Quakers to Sir Thomas Earle Mayor, and the rest of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace of this City, about the Noisomness and Fulness of the Goal of Newgate in the said City, tending to the Suffocating and endangering of their Lives, for want of convenient Room for Lodging and Air. And being desirous to enquire into, and view the said Goal, we were willing to accompany Richard Lane Esq; one of the Sheriffs for this City and County, to view the same: And upon strict Examination of the whole Condition thereof, we find, that the said Goal

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1681.

“ Goal is very noisom in general, and void of Outlett for Air, and therefore
 “ unfit to contain so great a Number of Prisoners, besides the Keeper and
 “ his Family; *eighty five* whereof are the People called *Quakers*, who are,
 “ through the Smallness of the Goal, unreasonably thronged together, filling
 “ the Rooms in the Goal fit for Lodging (except where the Felons are) with
 “ four, five, six, seven, and nine Beds in a Room, besides divers very little
 “ Corners fill’d with three in a Bed. And notwithstanding all this, we find
 “ that many of these People are necessitated to lie on the Ground, in the open
 “ Rooms, where no Bedsteads are to be placed, and spreading their Matts on
 “ the Ground they lie at that miserable Rate, that it was a Grief to us to be-
 “ hold, *viz.* some atwhart the Room, some under the Table, being a Ken-
 “ nell where the Dogs were wont to lie; some upon the Table, and some in
 “ Hammocks over the Table, which necessarily endangers their Lives; and
 “ as the Weather increases in Heat, it may occasion infectious Distempers, to
 “ the endangering the Health, not only of the said Prisoners, but also of the
 “ many Inhabitants of this great City: The Truth of which we shall be ready
 “ to certify upon Oath, if Occasion shall be. In Witness whereof we have
 “ hereunto subscribed our Names this 3d Day of *March*, in the four and thir-
 “ tieth Year of the Reign of our sovereign Lord *Charles*, by the Grace of
 “ God of *England, Scotland, France and Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith,
 “ &c. *Annoq. Dom. 1681.*

Simon Harle

John Cofsley

Richard Codrington

John Dudlestone

John Blissett

Joseph Finch

William Weaver

Michael Pope

Thomas Saunders

On the 5th of the same Month, in the Afternoon Meeting at the *Friars*, *Susanna York*, an ancient Woman, was thrown down: And *Mary Hooper* was much abused by *Helliar* and *Tilly*, who tore her Scarf, and thrust her up and down, so that she was ill for some Time after. *Mary Page*, Wife of *Francis Page*, was violently pulled out of the Meeting to the Danger of her Life, she being then great with Child. Having driven and haled them out of the Meeting, they encouraged the Boys to throw Dirt at them, *Helliar*, according to his usual Oratory, calling the Women *ugly Whores, Bitches, Jades*, and the like. He took off the Hat of *Elizabeth Long*, and threw it into the Water, calling her *old damn’d Bitch*.

Grievous
Abuses of
several Wo-
men, &c.

On the 11th Complaint was again made of the Hardships the Prisoners went through: That three of them being dangerously ill, could not obtain the Fa- vour to go Home a little for their Life or Health: When one of their Wives was brought to Bed, he desired Leave of the Keeper to go Home but an Hour or two to see her, but could not obtain it: That they could get no Sight of the Informations or Convictions against them, though they endeavoured it, and employed two Lawyers therein, but the Records were not in Court, but in Custody of *Knight*, *Helliar*, or their Agents: And that they found it very hard to get a Copy of the Warrants by which Distresses were made.

Repeated Com-
plaints of the
Prisoners
Hardships.

On the 19th *Thomas Lofty*, an ancient Man, not going out of the Meeting as soon as they bad him, *Helliar* delivered him to the Boys to carry to *Bridewell*: They grievously abused him, throwing him down several Times in the Dirt: On his refusing to go with the Boys, *Helliar* told him, *they were the King’s Offi- cers*. In the Afternoon, *Dorcas Dole* being at Prayer, was scoffed at and de- rided by *Helliar* and others, who made much Noise. One Captain *Arundel* deriding her Prayer, her Husband reproved him, at which Time the Captain pulled off *Dole’s* Hat, and threw it away, saying, *he would strike his Teeth down his Throat*, and that, *he would have his Heart out*. After which the wicked Rabble repeated their usual Abuses by throwing Dirt, and pushing them up and down.

Sore Abuses
of T. Lofty
and others.

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Beside the Distresses herein before mentioned, were taken this Year

More Distresses.

	l.	s.	d.		l.	s.	d.
From Abel Kelly, for	10	5	0	Fine, Goods worth	13	0	0
And at another Time in Money					10	0	0
Thomas Goldney, for	7	8	4	Goods which cost	12	16	0
Thomas Jordan	5	0	0	Goods worth	13	18	6
Thomas Callowhill	8	5	0		12	15	0
Richard Marsh	10	5	0		22	5	0
Richard Snead	9	10	0		17	0	0
Richard Erberry	5	10	0		15	0	0
John Love	7	10	0		11	0	0
Charles Harford	7	15	0		10	0	0
Charles Jones	7	15	0		18	0	0
For Fines of	79	3	4	Taken	155	14	6

The Sheriff
Knighthd.

About this Time, John Knight Sheriff was advanced by the King to the Dignity of Knighthood, an Honour to which perhaps his violent Prosecution of Dissenters had recommended him. His Accomplices, Tilly, Olliffe, and others, gloried in this Promotion of his, giving out, that they should now have a Troop of Horse, and a Company of Foot to break the Meetings.

1682.

ANNO 1682.

On the 25th of the Month called March, several noted Physicians signed the following Certificate, viz.

“ Civitas Bristol.

Certificate of
the Physicians
concerning the
Goal.

“ WE whose Names are hereunto subscribed, being publickly known Physicians and Inhabitants of the said City, having heard of the frequent Complaints of the People called Quakers to the Magistrates of this City, concerning the Straitness and Noisomness of the Goal of Newgate, into which great Numbers of the said People have been and are thronged together in a miserable manner, and we resenting their Condition with Compassion, and considering of what dangerous Consequence such their close Confinement may be, were moved, upon a full Examination of the Truth thereof, to certify, that the said Goal is very full and noisom, and that the said Prisoners are destitute of Room for Rest, which hath a ready Tendency, as the Season increases in Heat, to the destroying and suffocating of them, and in all Likelihood to breed infectious Distempers, to the endangering the Lives not only of the said Prisoners, but of the many Inhabitants of this great and populous City. Witness our Hands this five and twentieth Day of March, Anno regni Regis Caroli secundi nunc Angliæ, &c. tricesimo quarto. Annoq; Dom. 1682.

John Griffith
J. Chauncy

William Turgis
T. Bourne.

Their religious
Meetings in
Prison furiously
opposed
by the Sheriff,
&c.

As the Constancy of this People in the great Duty of assembling to worship God in Spirit and in Truth, while at Liberty, was immoveable, they continued the same Practice while in Prison, meeting and sitting down together in Reverence and Fear: Being so assembled on the 30th of the Month called March, Sheriff Knight, John Helliard, Edmund Brand, and the Goaler, fell furiously upon them, and thrust them by Violence out of the Room, the Sheriff protesting, if they departed not, he would put them in Irons. He commanded Roger Holland to be ironed and put down into the Westhouse, a Place where condemned Felons are usually put. At another Time, being assembled in the common Hall, and one of them (Allen Hallmark) speaking a few Words, the Sheriff threw him headlong

headlong down Stairs, to the great Hazard of his Life, after which he was put into the Westhouse, and continued there several Days. The Sheriff also laid violent Hands on *Erasmus Dole*, *Richard Vickris*, and *Richard Snead*, pulling them out by force, and inhumanly abusing them. These Grievances were represented in a Letter to the Justices, dated the 1st of the second Month 1682, signed by above seventy of the Prisoners, and in a Postscript to the same, concluding thus:

“ We intreat you to take these Things into your Consideration, and hear this Cry of Injustice. Suffer us not to be thus inhumanly abused in the Prison, which is under your Jurisdiction; for if these Things be suffered, we can expect no other, but that the Lives of some of us will be made a Sacrifice to the arbitrary Passion and Rage of the aforesaid Sheriff and his Assistants.”

On the 2d of the Month called *April*, *Dorcas Dole* was taken from the Meeting by *Ralph Olliffe jun.* and forcibly haled by him and his Assistants to *Bridewell*, without any *Warrant* or *Mittimus*. On the 9th she and six others were sent to *Newgate*, under Pretence of a Breach of the Peace.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman at Bristol to his Friend in London, dated the 19th of April 1682.

“ **L**AST Sunday the Sheriff, that is our new Sir *John*, came to the Quakers Meeting, and with him his usual Associates, and Fellow-Informers, Mr. *Helliar*, *Olliffe*, *Lugg*, *Casse*, *Tilly*, *Patrick*, *Brand*, and *Summers*; the first six, being a Set of Constables, past together as the only Persons in the City for such a Work: These disturbed the Meeting, haling out, pushing and driving away the Quakers, many of whom, both Men and Women, they, as usual, took Authority to commit to *Bridewell*, where eleven of them were continued all Night, sitting up by the Fire for want of Lodging. Please to note, that the taking upon them this Authority is so common with them, that in their Discourses and Actions they all alike usurp the Place of Justices of the Peace; the meanest Tool among these Informers menaces with his Power, commits with more Imperiousness, and releases with more Freedom than is common for any of our Aldermen, who still, to give them their Due, sent the Women Home, as soon as they were brought before them: The Mayor calling to our new Sir *John*, asking, *what they did, and for what they were committed?* he answered, *that they were all at a Meeting, but said nothing; so he knew not what they were about, unless they were plotting to break open the Prison, and get away their Husbands.* To satisfy you with my Distinction, and calling some of these Informers mean, I assure you it is their proper Title, they being here fully known so, and in all their other Qualifications, that the naming them to an honest Bristol Man, presently furnishes you with their right Character. Mr. *Helliar* has Precedency as a Person of an Estate, one noted for—and famous for his Experience and great Cunning in these Practices; but our new Sir *John* carries the Bell, for he is certainly the Son of once a truly worthy and loyal Magistrate, who bred him a Merchant, and placed him a Factor at *Nevis*. Since I write only News from *Bristol*, I shall say nothing of the Ruggle he drove there, but come to his Character here.—He now abounds in an Estate of at least seven Score Pounds a Year, he hath Part of two Ships, and a Stock in Trade, besides the Improvement he is daily making in his present new Calling. Yesterday the Quakers Meeting was again disturbed by our new Sir *John* and his Man. The Constables came not with him, they, by a compacted Agreement, having placed themselves in the Meeting-Room, and had for their Company several Fiddlers, a Drummer with a Drum, also a Flag and Arms: For this Company Victuals and Liquor were provided to carry on the designed Revel and Riot: Just as the Sheriff came, the Doors of the Meeting-house were thrown open, and the Fiddlers began to play on their Fiddles: The Sheriff smiling, asked, *What* “ was

BRISTOL.
1682.

The Sheriff
lays violent
Hands on
several.

Conclusion of
the Prisoners
Petition to the
Justices.

Commitment
of D. Dole,
and 6 others.

Extract of a
Letter from a
Gentleman at
Bristol.

BRISTOL.
1682.

“ was the Meaning of this ? Tilley, one of his Brother Informers, answered,
“ They meant to be merry, and came there to dance. To make good his Word,
“ they attempted to take hold of several young Women to hale them in,
“ who, fearful of being abused by so vile a Company, held fast by the ancient
“ Women, upon which two of the said Girls, with the Women who sheltered
“ them, were by the Sheriff committed to *Bridewell*, and with them two
“ more for reproving their Lewdness. The manner of the *Quaker* Woman’s
“ Reproof was thus : *Well Sheriff Knight, said she, I see, that though we can-*
“ *not be suffered to serve God, these shall to serve the Devil. Our peaceable*
“ *Meetings you seek to make Riots, and here you your selves are rioting and revel-*
“ *ling to a great Excess. O, these Doings are a Shame to BRISTOL, which was*
“ *once reputed a sober and well governed City : Now it is altered, for the Pro-*
“ *phane, Drunkards, Revellers and Whoremongers are countenanced, but those*
“ *that fear God, made a Prey of ; surely God will visit heavily with his Judg-*
“ *ments for these crying Sins.*

“ To proceed, the Meeting being thus dispersed, these Constables, Informers,
“ and Company, still continued in the Meeting-house, eating, drinking,
“ and making a clamorous Noise ; visited they were by some of the same
“ Complexion, whose Names I may furnish you with another Time. In the
“ *Interim*, I have to tell you, that having well drunken in the lower Room,
“ they then went up Stairs to the Tenement of a late Widow, and there at
“ the Top of the House they sang, made *Huzzas*, and revelled till about
“ three in the Afternoon, when, being weary, they left the Place, and to shew
“ their Power, *Tilly*, he goes to *Bridewell*, and releases the six Women. Just
“ before this Revel broke up, there happened a very pleasant Passage, that is,
“ the Informers being got up to the upper Tenement of the *Quakers* Meeting-
“ house, had then the View of the House of a *Quaker*, against whom these
“ Blades have an inveterate Spleen, in that he was one that went to *Whiteball*
“ to complain of their illegal Proceedings ; this they manifest by enquiring every
“ Meeting-day after him, and menacing how they would manage him for his
“ petitioning, supposing they were now levelling their Thoughts at him, their
“ Heads swimming with the Height of the Station, and the Strength of the
“ Liquor, they dreamed or fancied a Conventicle at his House ; so away they
“ came and beset it on this Suspicion, he being then with his Wife and Mother
“ abroad at Dinner at a Relation’s House, and having left in his House three
“ small Children and his own Servants only ; knocking at the Door the Ser-
“ vants were fearful to open it to so rude and barbarous a Company : So one
“ of them, that is, *E. Summers*, a rascally wicked Butcher, goes over a Neigh-
“ bour’s Wall, and entered his Garden, then went and opened the Street Door,
“ letting in the other Informers, that is, *Tilly, Patrick* and *Casse* : *Lugg* and
“ *Olliffe* waited without Doors, whether fearing their Entry was unwarrantable,
“ or that they waited for a supposed Prey, I know not ; but whilst they were
“ without Doors, *Tilly* enters and walks about the first Floor within Doors :
“ *Summers, Patrick* and *Casse*, run hastily up Stairs, and finding none in the
“ House but Children and Servants, away they departed. When I last spoke
“ with the Gentleman, he told me, *he hopes he lost nothing* : However, should
“ I be so served, I think I should be loth to let the Gentlemen go without
“ searching their Pockets, knowing that both Law and Gospel, would, from
“ their thus entering an House, make them all great Trespassers, and shrewdly
“ suspected of being Thieves and Robbers.”

In a Letter from the Prisoners, dated *Bristol* the 22d of the second Month,
they write thus :

Extract of a
Letter from
the Prisoners.

“ WE are here about eighty five. God hath been very good to us, and
“ we are all well content, though we are a great Family in Prison ;
“ both we and Friends abroad exceedingly exercised by the Cruelty of those
“ that prosecute us. Yesterday and to Day, great Havock hath been made on
“ Friends

CHAP. 4. of the People called QUAKERS.

61

“ Friends Goods for Fines for Meeting the 1st of the eleventh Month 1681, BRISTOL.
1682.

“ viz.	l.	s.	d.
“ For a Fine of 8l. odd Money, Goods taken from “ Charles Harford to the Value of	18	0	0
“ For a Fine of 10l. odd Money, Goods taken from “ John Love to the Value of	20	0	0
“ For a Fine of 8l. odd Money, Goods taken from “ Thomas Mosely to the Value of	13	0	0
“ For a Fine of 8l. odd Money, Goods taken from “ Charles Jones sen. to the Value of	13	0	0
“ For a Fine of 8l. odd Money, Goods taken from “ Charles Jones jun. to the Value of	18	0	0
“ For a Fine of 6l. odd Money, Goods taken from “ Michael Jones to the Value of	22	0	0
“ For a Fine of 10l. odd Money, Goods taken from “ John Jones to the Value of	24	0	0
“ For a Fine of 10l. odd Money, T. Locket's Box “ broke open, and Money taken out	10	8	0
“ For a Fine of 10l. odd Money, Richard Yeat's “ Counter broke open, and in Money taken	10	14	0
“ For a Fine of 10s. Goods taken from William “ Dawson to the Value of	4	0	0
	153	2	0

“ They got into Richard Marsh's House and made sad Havock, a more
“ full Account whereof may be given. They took Goods from others of our
“ Friends, of which we have no Account yet, nor is this Account so full as
“ we intend.——We may have more to mention of this Kind, in that we
“ hear they intend to go to it again, they having Warrants for 400l. Quarter
“ Sessions is to be next Third-day of the Week, by which they intend to effect it,
“ as we hear. The Bishop is come, and all Things seem preparing to ruinate us,
“ but our Hope is in the Lord, and we commend our Cause to him alone.——
“ All dear Friends, pray for us that we may be kept faithful to the End. These
“ Distresses are taken for a Meeting whereat was no Preaching or Praying that
“ they pretend to, nor was any there that we can call to Mind.”

The manner of making those Distresses, and a particular Account of the
Havock made at Richard Marsh's House, we transcribe from a Paper intituled,
The devouring Informers of BRISTOL, dated the 22d of April 1682.

“ **F**OR these two Days our old Informers Mr. Helliar and Accomplices,
“ Luggs, Tilly, Casse, Patrick, Hoare and Watkins, with their Assistants,
“ have been levying Distresses upon several Protestant Dissenters, and in the
“ Management of it behaved themselves with that Fury and unparallel'd De-
“ gree of Violence and arbitrary Force, that it fills our Hearts with Sadness,
“ and our Thoughts with no less Terror than Amazement. Part of them (for
“ they divide themselves into two Bodies) that is, Mr. Helliar, Tilly, Luggs, and
“ Watkins the Marshal, with their late Assistant Summers the Butcher, came
“ to the House of Mr. Richard Marsh in Corn-Street, who is a Person known
“ to be one of the considerablest Merchants in this City. These entring his
“ House to make a Distress for 10l. broke open his Counter Door, and
“ searched for Money, and then went into an inward Counter, and there
“ seized and carried away his Journal, Ledger, Cash and Invoice Books, and
“ several other Books of Account to the Number of thirty, and a Bundle of
“ written Papers, and several Sorts of Household Goods: Not content with
“ this, they seized also the Provision of Victuals then in the House, being
VOL. I. Q “ three

Transcript
from a Paper,
intituled The
devouring
Informer of
Bristol.

BRISTOL.
1682.

“ three Pieces of Pork, and two Pieces of Beef, two Pullets, and four Neats
“ Tongues, all which they carried away : Besides this they seized a Gammon
“ of Bacon, and other Victuals and Drink which they consumed on the Place,
“ spending near three Hours Time in commanding his House, and ransacking
“ several Chambers, particularly the Chamber of his Wife then lying in.
“ During this Stay in his House, their Behaviour was so insolent, that they
“ greatly affrighted not only his Servants, but all those Spectators whose
“ Occasions and Respect called them into his House. The Servants they hec-
“ tored and treated in Language to this Purpose, *How dare you touch any*
“ *Thing now we are here ?* Two of the Spectators, one a Butcher, the other a
“ Butter-woman, bringing Meat and Butter into his House, being Market-day,
“ were forced to carry away both, and escaped with Difficulty their having it
“ taken from them. This Gentleman, Mr. *Marsh*, had formerly taken from
“ him a Ton of Wine worth 20*l.* which they sold for 4*l.* and to make up
“ the Distress 10*l.* they forced themselves into his Man's Counter, and took
“ from him 6*l.* odd Money. Their manner of levying this Distress is as
“ follows, *viz.* When they enter a Shop, albeit there is Abundance of Goods
“ in View, yet they break open Chests, Counters, &c. and thence take away
“ the Money ; if no Money to be had, then they take either Shop or Household
“ Goods, and of them generally to double their Value : If any durst speak to
“ them by way of Reproof for these unreasonable Proceedings, then they huff
“ and threaten to send them to Prison, which Power they assume to themselves
“ commonly when they go to disturb the *Quakers* Meetings, thinking, no
“ doubt, but they are privileged to it by the Office of Constable, and the
“ Example of their *grand Abettor*, and *Brother Informer*, Sheriff *Knight*.
“ It's generally believed by the long Date of the Warrants, these Distresses have
“ been levied for Convictions made clandestinely in a Tavern, &c.”

Proceedings
at Sessions.

At the Sessions beginning on the 25th of the Month called *April*, many of the Prisoners were indicted, some pleaded *not guilty*, and others desired Copies of their Indictments. This done, the Court offered them Favour upon Submission. Some of them were fined 6*d.* each, and discharged without Fees : But others, when advised to submit to the King's Grace, and the Favour of the Court, answered, *that if it were a Case of Meum and Tuum, they thought they might do it without Damage, but the Case being the Lord's, and not theirs, and their Conscience toward him concerned therein, they could not submit, but hoped the Lord would support them under any Sufferings for his Sake.* Twelve of them were tried on an Indictment for meeting in the Street, but their Council demurring to the Evidence, their Demurrer was allowed. Eleven others were tried on an Indictment for assembling in the Meeting-house. Their Council insisted on Sheriff *Lane's* returning the Jury, because Sheriff *Knight* was the chief Evidence against them : But the Under Sheriff, *Thomas Ofield*, was ordered to do it, which he did, mostly *Artillery Men*. They brought in their Verdict, *Guilty of being at a Meeting-house in Temple Street, and not departing upon Proclamation.* But the Town-Clerk refused to record that Verdict, and sent them out again, who returned, and brought them in *Guilty of the Indictment.* Whereupon the Court fined one 5*l.* some 40*s.* and some 10*s.* a piece. In like manner they proceeded with many others. But in the End, the Justices generally inclining to be favourable, they discharged many on Promise of appearing at next Sessions, and left in Prison only seventeen Persons on Account of Meeting.

Confinement
of 101 Per-
sons in the
Meeting-
house.

Those who were set at Liberty, were soon taken again ; for on the 7th of the Month called *May*, *Knight*, *Helliar*, and their Accomplices, came to the Meeting about ten in the Morning, and sent seven Men to *Newgate*, and then causing the Doors to be nail'd upon the rest, being fourteen Men and eighty seven Women, kept them together near six Hours without any Convenience for Ease or Refreshment ; *Helliar* scoffingly telling them, *that next Time they should have Chamber Pots.* While they were lock'd up, the Afternoon Meeting began near

near the other Meeting-house, into which, those who attended were not suffered to enter, but obliged to meet in an open Court, where *Tilly* and his Accomplices fastened them in till between four and five in the Evening; when they and the others were had to the *Tolzey* before *John Hicks* the Deputy Mayor: But he dismissed them on Condition to appear next Day. They appeared accordingly, and the Day after a Bill of Indictment for a Riot was preferred against them, and they were brought to Trial. The Substance of the Evidence given by *Patrick* the Constable, and another Informer, was, "That about thirty of the *Women* came and forcibly opened the Door, and laying Hands on him, rescued themselves from the Place they were confined to." The Justices, thinking this Information improbable, gave the *Women* full Liberty to make their Defence, which one of them, in behalf of the rest, performed briefly and in good Language, telling the Justices, "That being peaceably met, the Officers and Informers set a Guard upon them, because they did not depart immediately upon their Proclamation: That after this, they called out six or eight of them at a time, and dismissed them, and then called another Parcel of them and did the like: That one of the Informers ordered several of them to *Bridewell*, but *Helliar* called them back again, and remanded them to their Confinement at the Meeting-place: That when the usual Time came for their Departure, they rose together, and were going quietly away: That some of them were got almost as far as the Street unmolested: That they were brought back again to their Confinement, where they were kept in the Rain, while the Informers took up the Places of Shelter to drink Ale and smoke Tobacco in." The Defence they made was so clear, that some of the Justices became their Advocates, and the Jury would not give Credit to the Informers, but brought in their Verdict, No Riot, but guilty of an unlawful Assembly. The Jury's Verdict not answering the Informers Purpose, they were displeased with it, though it was very satisfactory to the discreet and moderate Magistrates, and sober Citizens that were present.

On the 12th of the same Month the Sheriff came to the Meeting, and commanded the *King's Peace* to be kept: A serious Woman present answered, *We do keep the King's Peace, and we came here to keep our Peace with the King of Kings.* Upon this he sent her and three more to *Newgate*. On the 14th *Helliar*, and others, sent eleven Men and fourteen Women from the Meeting to *Bridewell* and *Newgate* till Evening, and then carried them before Alderman *Olliffe* at the three Tun Tavern, who committed them to *Newgate* as Peace-breakers. This Alderman came Home the Night before from London, and *Helliar* was heard to say, *he thanked his God heartily for his Return*, as knowing he would do the *Quakers* Business: For the other Aldermen were not so forward at that Kind of Work. On the 28th, in the Morning, they sent fourteen to *Newgate*; and in the Afternoon *Helliar* came to the Meeting, searching for Stools, as he said, to make a Bonfire, it being the Anniversary of the King's Restoration. The Sheriff seated himself without the Door, and ordered them to be brought out one by one, then taking their Names, he put them under a Guard in the Cloisters, and thence sent about ninety of them to *Bridewell*, with a scornful Derision saying, *that he would send them away by thirteen to the Dozen*: And so they were driven away like Sheep to the Slaughter. They were thrust into *Bridewell* all together, without Regard to Sex, Age, or Condition, where, for want of Beds, they were forced to lie some on Benches, and Tables, others on the Floor and Stairs, in nasty Rooms, not made Use of for many Years: Next Day they were sent for to the *Tolzey*, and detained there about eight Hours, till several of them were sick and faint: After long Consultation the Magistrates sent seventy three of them to Prison, under Pretence of being Peace-breakers, where they were crowded together, lying on the Floor with seven, eight, or nine Beds in a Room.

The Form of their *Mittimus* was thus:

BRISTOL.
1682.

Their Examination.

Evidence of the Constable against the Women.

Their Defence.

Verdict of the Jury.

4 Women sent to Newgate.

25 Sent to Newgate.

90 Sent to Bridewell.

" Bristol

BRISTOL.
1682.“ Bristol *fs.*“ To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal of Newgate in the City
of Bristol.Warrant for
committing
73 Persons to
Newgate.

“ **W** E herewith send you the Bodies of *Hannab Jordan Widow, Robert Lux Stocking-maker, Mary Wooton, Mary Hollister, Sarah Shaw, Mary Aldworth, Mary Cowling, William Davis, Charles Smith, Mary Day, Elizabeth Horwood, Mary Tyler, Margaret Price, Elizabeth Holstone, Constance Cox, Hannah Davis, Sarah Dickson, Mary Hooper, Abigail Bues, Anne Andrews, Elizabeth Sturge, Elizabeth Atkins, James Atkins, Christian Roe, Elizabeth Roe, Mary Thresher, Mary Albright, Sarah Saunders, Susanna York, Mariba Window, Margaret Cliftell, Alice Ellis, Elizabeth Driver, Sarah Gibson, Jane Merrick, Sarah Bues, Elizabeth Kippin, Elizabeth Lucas, Mariba James, Mary Fry, Elizabeth Long, Mary Ledbrook, Mary Rock, Joane Crow, Elizabeth Taylor, Mary Merrick, Susanna Otley, Joane Segar, Sarah Dole, Susanna Godby jun. Anne Snelgrove, Susanna Godby sen. Martha Town, Joane Philips, Mary Hampton, Anne Hill, Anne Lamb, Elizabeth David, Mary Fry, Frances Fry, Mary Naylor, Elizabeth Martin, Sarah Blakeway, Ellinor Horne, Rachel Martin, Alice Hill, Jane Taylor, Rebecca Martin, Joane Pricket, Ruth Rippin, Margaret Thompson, and John Woodward*, for that they, and every of them, upon the 28th of May Instant, being the Lord's Day, together with divers other Persons, did unlawfully assemble themselves and meet together in a Place called the Friery, in the Parish of St. James's in this City, and refused to depart, though solemnly required and commanded by several Constables of the Ward of St. James's, in Contempt and Breach of his Majesty's Laws and Peace: And for that they and every of them refused to find Sureties for their personal Appearance at the next General Sessions of the Peace. You are to take them into Custody, and their Bodies you are there safely to keep, until they be thence discharged by due Course of Law. Given under our Hands and Seals this 29th Day of May 1682.

Thomas Earle Mayor
Ralph OlliffeRobert Yeomans
Richard Crump

On the 4th of the Month called June, they sent five Men and nine Women to *Bridewell*: One *John Franklin*, for asking of *Helliar* a Copy of his *Mittimus*, was put into a Place called *Franklin's Penn*. On the 11th they sent four Men, five Women, and seven Children to the same Prison. The Number of Prisoners in *Bridewell* and *Newgate* was now increased again to about one Hundred and fifty; it being usual to send the Husbands to one Prison and their Wives to another. On the 18th *Thomas Callowbill*, and *Mary Goldney*, were committed to *Newgate*, Copies of their *Mittimus* are as follows,

Thomas Callowbill's Mittimus.

“ Bristol *fs.*T. Callow-
bill's Mit-
timus.

“ **F** ORASMUCH as Sir *John Knight* one of the Sheriffs, and divers Constables of this City, were this Morning in Execution of their respective Offices, at an House in *Temple Street* within this City, dispersing an unlawful Conventicle or Meeting there held at the Time of divine Service, contrary to the Laws and Statutes of this Realm, and thereupon *Thomas Callowbill*, one of the Persons so there unlawfully assembled, in Contempt of our Sovereign Lord the King's Majesty, and the said Laws and Statutes, upbraidingly spoke of the said Sheriff and Constables reproachful Words to this Effect, that they troubled the Government, for no other Reason, as appears to me, than for doing their Office and Duty in executing the said Laws and

“ Statutes,

BRISTOL.
1682.

“ Statutes, and thereupon one of the said Constables secured, and put into
 “ your Custody the said *Thomas Callowbill* as a Contemner of the Laws,
 “ and a Breaker of his Majesty’s Peace, all which appears to me upon
 “ Oath. These are therefore to will and require, and in his Majesty’s Name
 “ strictly to charge and command you to detain and keep in your Custody the
 “ said *Thomas Callowbill*, until he shall become bound to his Majesty by Re-
 “ cognizance, with Sureties for his personal Appearance at the next general
 “ Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be held for this City and County, to
 “ answer his said Contempt, Misdemeanour and Breach of his Majesty’s Peace,
 “ and for his good Behaviour in the mean Time, or that he shall be thence
 “ discharged by due Course of Law. And hereof you are not to fail at your
 “ Peril. Given under my Hand and Seal this 18th Day of June, Anno regni
 “ *Caroli secundi nunc Angliæ, &c.* 34^o Annoq; Dom. 1682.

To the Keeper of his Majesty’s Goal
 of Newgate within the said City.

“ RALPH OLLIFFE.”

Mary Goldney’s Mittimus.

“ Bristol fs.

“ FORASMUCH as Sir *John Knight* one of the Sheriffs of this City, and
 “ diverse Constables of this City, were this Morning in Execution of
 “ their respective Offices, at an House in *Temple Street* within this City,
 “ dispersing an unlawful Conventicle or Meeting held there at the Time
 “ of divine Service, contrary to the Laws and Statutes of this Realm,
 “ and forasmuch as diverse Boys and Girls among others were there un-
 “ lawfully assembled, and forasmuch as *John Helliar* Gent. one of the Con-
 “ stables of this City, secured in Custody one of the said Girls, and the
 “ better to deter her from frequenting such kind of unlawful Meetings,
 “ threatened to put her in the Stocks, and thereupon *Mary*, Wife of *Thomas*
 “ *Goldney*, one of the Persons so there unlawfully assembled, did comfort
 “ and encourage the said Boys and Girls in their Disobedience of the Law,
 “ and in frequenting of the said Meetings, and said to the Girl so secured,
 “ these Words, or to this Effect, viz. *Do not be afraid of the Stocks*, and there-
 “ upon the said *John Helliar* secured, and put into Custody the said *Mary*
 “ *Goldney* as a Contemner of the Laws, and Breaker of his Majesty’s Peace;
 “ all which appears to me upon Oath. These are therefore to will and require,
 “ and in his Majesty’s Name strictly to charge and command you to detain
 “ and keep in your Custody the Body of the said *Mary Goldney*, until she shall
 “ find sufficient Sureties to his Majesty by Recognizance for her personal Ap-
 “ pearance at the next general Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be holden for
 “ this City and County, to answer her said Contempt, Misdemeanour and
 “ Breach of his Majesty’s Peace, and for her good Behaviour in the mean
 “ Time, or that she shall be thence discharged by due Course of Law. Given
 “ under my Hand and Seal this 18th Day of June, Anno regni *Caroli secundi*
 “ *nunc Angliæ, &c.* 34^o Annoq; Dom. 1682.

Mittimus of
M. Goldney.

To the Keeper of his Majesty’s Goal of
 Newgate within the said City. These.

“ RALPH OLLIFFE.”

The Cause of these Commitments is apparently trivial, and seems feigned on Purpose to justify the Constables in sending the Persons at first to Goal by their own assumed Authority in an illegal manner.

At the same Time *Helliar* caused *Benjamin Wall*, *John Boucher*, *Joseph James*, *Elias Osborne*, *Samuel Gibbons*, and another Youth under sixteen Years of Age, to be set in the Stocks: An arbitrary Proceeding not warrantable by any Law. He also caused *Dorcas Dole*, whom he overheard, when at Prayer among her

Arbitrary Acts
of Helliar.

BRISTOL.
1682.

Observable
Devotion of
Children.

Recommitment
from Sessions.

Boys set in the
Stocks.

Children beat-
en by Helliar.

Patience of
Children un-
der many
Abuses.

imprisoned Friends in *Bridewell*, to be pulled off her Knees by Violence, and confined in a close dark Place called the *Penn*, so damp and filthy, that through the Nastiness thereof she fainted away, and when they took her out again, could neither speak, nor see, for a considerable Time. The same Day in the Afternoon *Helliar* sent *Mary Dedicote*, *Anne Day*, *Anne Gibbons*, *Sarah James*, and *Deborah Mears*, to *Bridewell*, and *Richard Lindey*, a blind Man, eighty three Years of Age, *Richard Hayes*, and *Thomas Dickson*, to *Newgate*. On the 25th five Men and two Women were sent to *Bridewell*, but next Day discharged by the Mayor, somebody being bound for them without their Consent.

On the 7th of the Month called *July*, they dispersed the Meeting which then consisted chiefly of Children; for the Men and Women being generally in Prison, the Children kept up their Meetings regularly, and with a remarkable Gravity and Composure: It was surprising to see the manly Courage and Constancy with which some of the Boys behaved on this Occasion, keeping close to Meetings in the Absence of their Parents, and undergoing on that Account many Abuses with Patience. On the 29th two Men were sent to *Newgate*.

At the Sessions on the 15th many were convicted and fined, but generally sent back to Prison, their Number now being about one Hundred and sixty. Two were carried out of *Bridewell* sick, and likely to die, of a *Fever*. On the 16th *Tilly* caused five of the Boys to be set in the Stocks three Quarters of an Hour. On the 23d eight of the Boys were put in the Stocks two Hours and an half: One *B. Wall*, following the Boys to see what was done to them, was also set in the Stocks. On the 30th, in the Afternoon, about fifty five were at the Meeting, when *Helliar*, with a twisted Whalebone-stick, beat many of them unmercifully, striking them violent Blows on their Heads, Necks and Faces, few of them escaping without some Marks of his Fury.

On the 3d of the Month called *August*, *Tilly*, with a small Faggot-stick, beat many of the Children, but they bore it patiently and cheerfully. On the 6th he beat some of them with a Whalebone-stick, and sent four Boys to *Bridewell*, who were released in the Evening with Threats of Whipping if they met together again. On the 13th *Helliar* much abused *Richard Vickris*, threw away an aged Woman's Staff, and beat *Joseph Kippin*, a young Lad, about the Head till he was ready to swoon: He also sent eleven Boys and four Girls to *Bridewell*, till a Friend engaged for their Appearance next Day before the Deputy Mayor, who endeavoured both by Perswasions and Threats to make them promise to come at no more Meetings; but the Children in that Respect were unmoveable: Wherefore they were sent to *Bridewell* again, *Helliar* to terrify them, charging the Keeper to provide a new Cat of *Ninetails* against next Morning. Next Day at the *Tolzey* he urged the Justices to have them corrected, but could not prevail. The Boys and Girls were mostly from ten to twelve Years of Age. Their Names were *Samuel Gibbon*, *William Miller*, *Joseph James*, *Elias Osborne*, *Tabitha Jones*, *Jonathan Jones*, *William Fry*, *Joseph Watkins*, *Rachel Mears*, *William Day*, *Samuel Watkins*, *James Randy*, *Martha Watkins*, *Martha James*, and *James Wheeler*. On the 20th *James Peters*, *Sarah Jones*, *Mary Wall*, and *Anne Day*, were sent to *Newgate*, and a *Mittimus* was afterwards procured from Alderman *Olliffe* to detain them there. On the 27th, in the Morning, *William Bryan* and four Boys, viz. *Jonathan Jones*, *William Day*, *Elias Osborne*, and *Samuel Gibbons*, and in the Afternoon *John Styant*, *Elizabeth Moore* Widow, and *Elizabeth Walker*, were also sent to *Newgate*.

On the 4th of *September*, in the Morning, *Ralph Olliffe* jun. *Standfast* and *Watkins*, abused and beat the Children, and sent two Men to *Newgate*. In the Afternoon *Tilly*, *Lugg*, and others, sent Sir *Robert Cann*'s two Sisters to *Newgate*, with an old blind Man, aged eighty three; also two other Women, and a little Boy. On the 9th thirty one were sent to *Newgate*, and on the 16th *Mary Sherwood*, who came from *London*, was sent to Prison.

On the 18th *Laurence Steel*, *Mary Goldney*, and *Mary North*, were sent to *Newgate*, and many others to *Bridewell*, where the Wife of *Robert Gibbons* was taken

taken sick, and being carried Home died next Morning. On the 25th, in the Morning, five Men, one Woman, and three Children, were sent to Bridewell; and in the Afternoon, three Men, four Women, and nine Children. The Mayor dismissed them afterwards on Promise of appearing next Day, when he threatened the Children, and sent seven of the Men, and four of the Women, to Newgate.

On the 2d of October nineteen were sent to Bridewell, and most of them kept all Night: Next Day the Mayor sent four of them to Newgate.

In November 1682, a List was taken of the Names, and Numbers of the Prisoners, lodged in each Room in Newgate, and Bridewell, which are as follows, viz.

IN NEWGATE.

1st. In the Room called the Anchor, five, viz. Thomas Callowhill, Thomas Pagot, Henry Dedicote, Charles Harford jun. and * Richard Snead.

2d. In the Coopers Room, eight, viz. Robert Gerish, John Pope, Tobias Dimocke, Richard Parker, Clement Oliver, Robert Priest, Jabez White, and John Rennett.

3d. In the Chapell Chamber, thirteen, viz. Paul Moon, John Cowling, William Taylor, Thomas Willis, Joseph Chandler, George White, Isaac Partridge, Samuel Dickson, Thomas Hall, Thomas Arnold, Samuel Gibbons aged fifteen Years, John Hall, and Laurence Steel.

4th. In Traitors Ward, nine, viz. Michael Huffle, Jane Simmons, Morgan Lamb, Edward Dowel, William Davis, Thomas Lofly, John Woodward, Miles David, and Charles Berry.

5th. In the Three Corner'd Lead Room, three, viz. Joseph Watkins aged fourteen, Samuel Watkins aged eleven, and Thomas James.

6th. In the Gallery, eleven, viz. Margaret Hale, Mary Wall, Dorcas Bennett, Elizabeth Harford, Anne Taylor, Martha Fry, Bridget Snead, Anna Taylor, Sarah Bennett aged twelve, Mary Gibbons aged fourteen, Joanna Taylor aged thirteen.

7th. In the Three Corner'd Room, three, viz. James Peters, James Gayner, Matthias Jones.

8th. In the Women's Ward, one, viz. Barbara Blagdon.

In all, lodging in Newgate, fifty three.

IN BRIDEWELL.

In the first Room, thirteen, viz. Hannah Jordan aged sixty two, Anne James, Jane Phillips, Mary Cowling, Mary Fry, Mary Day, Mary Hollister, Anne Harris, Sarah Gibbins, Mary Cliftell, Constance Cox, Susanna Olley, Sarah Minor sen.

In the second Room, seventeen, viz. Mary Thomas aged sixty five, Elizabeth Batbo aged sixty two, Susanna Godby aged sixty two, Martha James, Susanna Godby jun. Jane Merrick, Mary Merrick, Sarah Bues, Jane Taylor, Martha Windham, Sarah Dole, Hannah Dorney, Sarah Blackway, Mary Threshber, Edith Hollister, Sarah Shaw, Elizabeth Horwood.

In the third and fourth Rooms, sixteen, viz. Elizabeth Hill, Mary Albright, Elizabeth Town aged sixty one, Anne Hill aged sixty four, Anne Lamb aged sixty, Joane Pricket aged sixty two, Hannah Davis aged sixty one, Martha Town, Elizabeth Lucas, Elizabeth Hollister, Sarah Grist, Elizabeth Atkins, Joane Suggar, Rebecca Itbell, Elizabeth Moggs, Ellinor Horne.

In the fifth Room, eighteen, viz. Anne Andrews, Elizabeth Martin, Rebecca Martin, Elizabeth Roe, Christian Roe, Mary Ladbroke, Mary Tyler, Elizabeth Parsons, Margaret Godfrey, Jane Crow, Anne Fletcher, Margaret Price aged sixty, Mary Chamber aged sixty eight, Elizabeth Long aged sixty five, Elizabeth Driver aged sixty, Anne Rogers aged seventy, Susanna York aged seventy six, Elizabeth Martin.

In the sixth Room, viz. the Gallery, eleven Women, to wit, Dorcas Dole, Anne Moggs, Sarah Gibbons sen. Margaret Coale, Mary Alderman, Mary Dedicote,

BRISTOL.
1682.

Death of R.
Gibbon's
Wife.

19 Sent to
Bridewell.
A List of the
Prisoners.

In Newgate.

In Bridewell.

* R. Snead lodged over the Anchor.

BRISTOL.
1682.

Dedicote, Deborah Mears, Elizabeth Grantam, Alice Ellis aged sixty, *Mary Hampton* aged sixty eight, *Bridget Nash* aged about seventy eight, and eight Children, viz, *Elizabeth Jaques* aged about eleven, *Mary Jaques* aged about thirteen, *Mary Grantam* about eight Years of Age, *Sarah Taylor* about twelve, *Rachel Mears* about eleven, *Patience Herne* about eleven, *Mary Herne* about seven, and *Sarah Coate* about eight.

In all, lodging in *Bridewell*, eighty three.

Confined in both Prisons one Hundred and thirty six.

The Jaylor thrust fourteen of them, and seven Debtors, into a dark Dungeon, where they were forced to burn Candle Day and Night; and the Place was so little that they were obliged to lie in three Rows one above another.

On the 28th of the Month called *January*, *Margaret Hall* died a Prisoner.

Commitments
for Meetings.

There were also this Year committed for Meetings, *Anne Albright, Sarah Canne, Margaret Carell, Anne Davis, Anne Dorney, Elizabeth Dorney, John Philbridge, Anne Harford, Alice Hill, Anne Jordan, Richard Hayes, Thomas Bayley, Martha Lane, Sarah Minor jun. Elizabeth Oldstone, William Tippet, Mary Tibby, Margaret Thomas*, and others.

In this Year also the following Persons had their Goods taken by Distress for 9^l. each, for meeting together, viz.

Fines levied.

	l.	s.	d.
<i>Robert Lux</i> , to the Value of	18	0	0
<i>Charles Jones</i>	22	0	0
<i>Elizabeth Dowell</i>	28	0	0
<i>Daniel Gibbons</i>	9	0	0
<i>Edward Hacket</i>	24	0	0
	101	0	0

1683.

Fines returned
into the Court
of Exchequer
on the Statute
for 20^l. per
Month.

ANNO 1683.

Many of the People called *Quakers*, in *Bristol*, were returned into the Exchequer on the Statute of 20^l. per Month, for Absence from the National Worship; a List of whose Names and Penalties is subjoined:

Fined for three Months from the 20th of November, 33 Car. II.

	l.		l.
<i>Anne Storm</i> Widow	60	<i>Richard Nelson</i> Porter	60
<i>William Noble</i> Wiredrawer	60	<i>Thomas Gammon</i> Mariner	60
<i>Frances</i> his Wife	30	<i>Sarah Minor</i> Spinster	60
<i>John Wood</i> Carpenter	60	<i>Blanch Baugh</i> Widow	60
<i>Henry Thomas</i> Cooper	60	<i>John Lovell</i> Staymaker	60
<i>William Smart</i> Tyler	60	<i>Sarah</i> his Wife	30
And for his Wife	30	<i>Thomas Paget</i> Mealman	60
<i>Barbara Blagdon</i> Widow	60	<i>George Fisher</i> Brewer	60
<i>Martha Lane</i> Widow	60	<i>Mary</i> his Wife	30
<i>John Hardiman</i> Taylor	60	<i>John Arney</i> Chirurgeon	60
<i>Frances</i> his Wife	30	And for his Wife	30
<i>John Hathaway</i> Cooper	60	<i>Isaac Partridge</i> Silkweaver	60
<i>Joane Dapwell</i> Widow	60	<i>Arthur Sawyer</i> Sopemaker	60
<i>Owen Combes</i>	60	<i>Mary</i> his Wife	30
<i>Elizabeth Combes</i> Spinster	60	<i>Sarah Canne</i> Spinster	60
<i>Hannah Blackway</i> Spinster	60	<i>James Coatt</i> Clothworker	60
<i>Henry Dedicote</i> Currier	60	<i>William Lane</i> Grocer	60
<i>Cornelius Sergeant</i> Sopemaker	60	<i>Cecil</i> his Wife	30
<i>Rebecca</i> his Wife	30	<i>Samuel Combes</i> jun.	60
<i>Nathanael Day</i> Hosier	60	<i>Sarah Combes</i> Spinster	60
<i>Anne</i> his Wife	30	<i>Robert Cottens</i> Carpenter	60
<i>Robert Lux</i> Milliner	60		

Philip

CHAP. 4. *of the People called* **QUAKERS.**

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1683.

<i>Philip Gibbons Cooper</i>	l.	<i>William Minor Cordwainer</i>	l.
<i>Susanna his Wife</i>	60	<i>Sarah his Wife</i>	60
<i>Geofrey Pinder Mercer</i>	30	<i>Morgan Lamb Tyler</i>	30
<i>Elizabeth his Wife</i>	60	<i>Anne his Wife</i>	60
<i>William Dawson Glover</i>	30	<i>Matthew Warren Labourer</i>	30
<i>Mary Lane Spinster</i>	60	<i>Judith his Wife</i>	60
<i>Griffith Lascomb Milliner</i>	60	<i>Erasmus Dole Pewterer</i>	30
<i>Edward Line Mercer</i>	60	<i>Sarah his Wife</i>	60
<i>And for his Wife</i>	30		

From the 25th of *April*, 25 *Car. II.* for three Months.

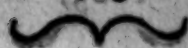
<i>William Pledwell Mafon</i>	l.	<i>John Styant Cutler</i>	l.
<i>Hannab Jordan Widow</i>	60	<i>Susanna his Wife</i>	60
<i>Edward Otley Glover</i>	60	<i>Lazarus Moggs Cordwainer</i>	30
<i>Katharine his Wife</i>	60	<i>Anne his Wife</i>	60
<i>Elizabeth Taylor Spinster</i>	30	<i>William Franklin for</i>	30
<i>Mary Franklin Spinster</i>	60	<i>Esther his Wife</i>	60
<i>Esther Franklin jun.</i>	60	<i>Joane Birkhead Widow</i>	60
<i>Mary Day Spinster</i>	60	<i>Elizabeth Sullock Widow</i>	60
<i>Mary Nailor Widow</i>	60	<i>Martha Nailor Spinster</i>	60
<i>John Collins Cooper</i>	60	<i>Lydia Nailor Spinster</i>	60
<i>Charles Harford Sopemaker</i>	60	<i>Walter Kippin Taylor</i>	60
<i>Elizabeth his Wife</i>	30	<i>Hannab his Wife</i>	30
<i>Ruth Kippin Widow</i>	60	<i>Sarah Kippin Spinster</i>	60

From the 20th of *November*, 32 *Car. II.* for eleven Months.

<i>Charles Harford Sopemaker</i>	l.	<i>Erasmus Dole Pewterer</i>	l.
<i>Samuel Taylor Cordwainer</i>	220	<i>Michael Jones Grocer</i>	220
<i>John Hall Baker</i>	220	<i>Tho. Swathcoat Schoolmaster</i>	220
<i>Thomas Jordan Grocer</i>	220	<i>Peter Young Sopemaker</i>	220
<i>Richard Phillips Cordwainer</i>	220	<i>John Jones Mafon</i>	220
<i>Thomas Goldney Grocer</i>	220	<i>John Herne Silkweaver</i>	220
<i>Samuel Hollister Grocer</i>	220	<i>Edward Perrin Merchant</i>	220
<i>James Freeman Apothecary</i>	220	<i>Matthew Warren Labourer</i>	220
<i>Barbara Blagdon Widow</i>	220	<i>Anne Blinkworib Widow</i>	220
<i>Geofrey Pinnel Mercer</i>	220	<i>Simon Cox Cooper</i>	220
<i>John Love Grocer</i>	220	<i>Anne his Wife</i>	110
<i>Thomas Mosely Glover</i>	220	<i>Joane Dixon Widow</i>	220
<i>Henry Dedicote Currier</i>	220	<i>Charles Jones Sopemaker</i>	220
<i>John Jones Mercer</i>	220	<i>John Jones Pewterer</i>	220
<i>William Bush Victualler</i>	220	<i>Elizabeth Dowel Widow</i>	220
<i>Richard Hambory Gentleman</i>	220	<i>John Hart Currier</i>	220
<i>Elizabeth his Wife</i>	220	<i>Paul Moon Currier</i>	220
<i>Martha Lane Widow</i>	220	<i>William Lane Grocer</i>	220
<i>Edward Line Mercer</i>	220	<i>Richard Wood Cooper</i>	220
<i>John Barnes Cordwainer</i>	220	<i>Edward Erbury Sopeboiler</i>	220

From the 20th of *November*, 33 *Car. II.* for three Months.

<i>John Gregory Scribe</i>	l.	<i>Bridget Kenton Spinster</i>	l.
<i>Anne Harris Spinster</i>	60	<i>Joane Dixon Widow</i>	60
<i>Martha Harris Spinster</i>	60	<i>Samuel Dixon Sopemaker</i>	60
<i>Elizabeth Atkins Widow</i>	60	<i>Robert Barnes Cordwainer</i>	60
<i>Elizabeth Atkins Spinster</i>	60	<i>Anne his Wife</i>	30
<i>John Rush Labourer</i>	60	<i>Thomas Heathcott Schoolmaster</i>	60
<i>Richard Kenton</i>	60	<i>Jane his Wife</i>	30
<i>Vol. I.</i>	S	<i>Anne</i>	

BRISTOL.
1683.

	l.		l.
Anne Brown Widow	60	Nicholas Taylor Carpenter	60
Mary Aldernan Spinster	60	Mary his Wife	30
Anne Harris Widow	60	Frances Fry Widow	60
Mary Harris Spinster	60	Miles David Taylor	60
Daniel Gibbons Farrier	60	Elizabeth his Wife	30
Sarah his Wife	30	Patience Herne Spinster	60
James Atkins	60	John Saunders Silkweaver	60
William Kenton Baker	60	Robert Topcliffe Silkweaver	60
Margery his Wife	30	Katharine his Wife	30
Joyce Kenton Spinster	60	Thomas Hayes Pinmaker	60
Sarah Dixon Spinster	60	Charles Saunders Gardener	60
John Johns Pewterer	60	John Albright Silkweaver	60
Alice his Wife	30	Christian Roe Widow	60
John Jennet Taylor	60	Elizabeth Roe Spinster	60
Bridget his Wife	30	Philip Russel Silkweaver	60
Joseph Burgis Metheglinmaker	60	Sarah his Wife	30
Jonathan Read Pumpmaker	60	Michael Hufse Silkweaver	60
Elizabeth his Wife	30	Joane his Wife	30
William Cook Grocer	60	Sarah Moore Spinster	60
Margaret Biss	60	John Herne Silkweaver	60
Hester Saunders	60	Eleanor his Wife	30
Anne Albright Widow	60	John Hort Currier	60
Christian Roe Spinster	60	Brightweed his Wife	30
Edith Bowes Widow	60	Paul Moon for	30
		Priscilla his Wife	30

The Fines for 38 Men for eleven Months amount to	8360
And for 2 of their Wives for the same Time	220
The Fines of 111 Men for three Months amount to	6660
And for 40 of their Wives for the same Time	1200

Total of the Fines 16440

J. Pitton im-
prisoned.

James Pitton, an Inhabitant of Swanzev in Wales, being at Bristol, went to visit his Friends in Prison, and being at Prayer with them, the Goaler came up in a Rage and took him up from his Knees: Next Morning he was carried before the Mayor and other Officers, and for not giving Sureties for his good Behaviour was committed to Prison.

The Prisoners kept for some Time a particular Account, which they published under the Title of *A NARRATIVE of the Cruelties and Abuses acted by ISAAC DENNIS Keeper, his Wife and Servants, in the Prison of Newgate, in the City of BRISTOL, upon the People of the Lord in Scorn called QUAKERS, &c.* Whence we have extracted some Passages, as follows,

Extract of a
Narrative of
the Cruelties
of J. Dennis
Keeper of
Newgate.

"The said Isaac Dennis attempted to throw Jeffery Pinell, one of the Prisoners, down Stairs, calling him Excommunicated Rogue, and swearing, he would break his Neck: And being asked, Why he so abused the Man? he answered, He is an Excommunicated Rogue, and if I had killed him, I should never be called to Account about it.

"He encouraged two Women, condemned Felons, to beat Mariabella Farmborough out of her Room, and throw down her Bedstead, and wash her out, calling her Whore, with other abusive Language.

"When J. Philbridge, a Silkweaver, desired a Place to put his Loom in to work for his Family, the Goaler scoffingly answered, Can't you make Brick without Straw? He also ordered his Servants, not to suffer any Work or working Tools to be brought in, not so much as a Board or Piece of Leather. He frequently locked some of them into the Westhouse, a nasty Place, and so dark that they could not see to eat their Food by Day without a Candle.

"When

BRISTOL.
1683.

“ When the Prisoners were met together, as they frequently did for religious
“ Worship, he, with his Turnkeys and Tapster, would deride them, and
“ sometimes would pull them by force out of the Room, and lock them apart
“ in several Places to prevent their so assembling.

“ He broke an Iron Candlestick about the Head and Shoulders of *Tobias*
“ *Dimocke*, and thrust him backward against the Corner of a Chest.

“ When *Dorcas Dole* was at Prayer, *Welchman* the Turnkey rudely pulled
“ her away; and the Goaler's Wife violently kickt one Woman, and threw
“ down another over the Threshold of a Door, so that she spat Blood several
“ Days after.”

Besides all this Cruel Usage, the Keeper would frequently call them *Rogues*,
Whores, *Cheats*, *Papists*, *worse than Felons*, with abundance more of such
wicked abusive Language, which he continued to do as long as he was able :
But he was suddenly taken sick and died ; his Deportment during his Sickness,
and the Exit he made, we shall also transcribe in the Words of the said Narra-
tive, viz. “ At length it pleased the Lord to visit *Isaac Dennis* the Keeper
“ with his Judgments, which were very dreadful, for about the eighth Month
“ 1683, it was so terrible to him, that he could not eat, nor sleep, but very
“ little, and yet by Day would strive against it, and by drinking and keeping
“ vain Company endeavoured to get Ease of his troubled Conscience, and
“ while the Strength of the Liquor was in him by Day, would seem as if
“ nothing were amiss ; but at Night he was in a woful Agony, and would
“ shake and tremble, and sweat cold Sweats ; then *he would desire us to pray*
“ *for him, and wish he had never seen the Inside of the Goal, saying, it had un-*
“ *done him.* He desired several of us *to forgive him what he had done : To*
“ *which we answered, he should ask Forgiveness of God, for we did forgive him.*
“ But yet still his Anguish and Torment increased, so that it was feared he
“ might be distracted : But then Doctors being sent for and come, caused him
“ to be let Blood : But he told them, *No Physick would do him Good, his Dis-*
“ *temper being another Thing ; and that no Man could do him Good : His Day*
“ *was over, and there was no Hope of Mercy from God for him.* And seeing
“ him in this woful Condition, our Hearts did pity him, and desired, *If the*
“ *Will of the Lord was so, he might find a Place of Repentance ;* and some of
“ us had Opportunity to speak with him, and we found that he had his Senses
“ and Understanding well, and we used such Arguments as in Christian Ten-
“ derness we thought best to persuade him out of his Hardness and Unbelief.
“ One of us said to him, *We hoped his Day was not over, because he had a*
“ *Sense of his Condition.* To which he answered, *I thank you for your good*
“ *Hope, but I have no Faith to believe,* and farther said, *Faith is the Gift of God ;*
“ *so nothing would enter him, but that his Day was over, and there was no*
“ *Mercy for him :* And in this miserable State he continued until the 30th of
“ the ninth Month 1683, when about the fourth Hour in the Morning he
“ ended this miserable Life.

“ Signed by *C. Harford* *J. Cowling.*
C. Jones *Paul Moon.*

The Publishers of the foregoing Account, conclude their Narrative thus,
“ This is not made publick, the Lord knows, out of any Revenge to the
“ Persons concerned, but as a Warning to all : Neither is it of any Self-
“ boasting, as though by our own Ability we had undergone all these Cruel-
“ ties inflicted on us ; but to him that lives for evermore do we ascribe the
“ Glory : By his Power alone we have been supported. And if this Example
“ of God's Judgments on this Man shall stop any from their evil Courses,
“ we have our End.”

We shall next relate the remarkable Case of *Richard Vickris*, who was pro-
secuted on the Statute of 35 of *Q. Elizabeth*, for absenting himself from the
National Worship ; by which Statute any Person convicted of absenting from
his

Remarkable
Case of *R.*
Vickris.

BRISTOL.
1683.

Proceedings
against him.

He is hurried
to a Trial.

His Sentence.

His designed
Death pre-
vented, and
he restored to
his Family.

Character of
R. Vickris.

1684.

A Letter from
the Prisoners
at Bristol to
the Yearly
Meeting at
London.

his Parish Church one Month, without lawful Occasion, is required to abjure the Realm, or else to be adjudged a Felon without Benefit of Clergy.

At a Sessions before the Time called *Easter*, 1683, *Richard Vickris* was indicted on that Statute, but he demurring to the Jurisdiction of the Court, and refusing to plead, was committed to Prison. At a following Sessions he was admitted to Bail, on Security given to answer the Indictment: Between that and Midsummer Sessions he procured an *Habeas Corpus* to remove his Body and Cause out of that Court.

At an Adjournment of the said Sessions on the 20th of the Month called *August*, he presented his *Habeas Corpus*, had his Recognizance discharged, and was delivered to the Custody of the Sheriff. On the 23d at a general Goal Delivery, he was, by the Instigation of Sir *John Knight* Sheriff, hurried to a Trial. He retained Council, who learnedly pleaded his Cause, and assigned divers Errors in his Indictment; but *Knight*, *Helliar*, and others in Court, being bent against him, procured a Jury to their Minds, who brought him in *Guilty*, and Sentence was past upon him accordingly, viz. "That he should conform, or abjure the Realm in three Months, or suffer Death as a Felon without Benefit of Clergy." The Recorder then admonished him to conform: *R. Vickris* answered, *he presumed he would not desire his Conformity against his Conscience*, and that, *to play the Hypocrite with Man was hateful, much more with God*. He had an Opportunity to speak his Mind fully in some Points, and came away easy and satisfied, being committed to Prison, where he remained under the said Sentence till the next Year, when the Time for his abjuring the Realm being expired, he lay liable to the Execution of the Sentence; for he who in Point of Conscience could not swear at all, was necessarily restrained from such Abjuration: Thus the Malice of his Adversaries had contrived the Destruction of the innocent Man, and as they thought, effectually ensnared him.

The Time expected for his Execution drawing nigh, his Enemies, to take off the Odium of their Proceedings, and to render him unpitied, were not wanting to blacken him with an infamous Character, and to spread Reports of his being disaffected to the Government: But the over-ruling Providence of God frustrated their malicious Purpose, and delivered him out of their Hands: His Wife, with the Assistance of her Friends, made Application to the Duke of *York*, who then bore great Sway at Court; he declared, that *neither his royal Brother, nor himself, desired that any of his Subjects should suffer for the Exercise of their Consciences, who were of a peaceable Behaviour under his Government*, and gave such Directions concerning him, as soon procured his Discharge: For being removed to *London* by a Writ of *Error* and *Habeas Corpus*, and brought to the King's Bench Bar, upon the Errors assigned by Councillor *Pol-luxfen* and others, he was cleared of the Sentence on the 25th of *Elizabeth* by Sir *George Jefferies*, Lord Chief Justice, and so was legally discharged in *Michaelmas* Term 1684, to the great Joy of his aged Father, his distressed Wife and Family, and his Friends throughout the Nation. His Father, who lived to see him discharged, died within three Days after his Return Home, and left to him, his only Son, the Inheritance of a good Estate at *Chew* in *Somersetshire*, where he afterward dwelt, was a Man very serviceable to his Friends and Neighbours, and an Ornament to his Place and Station.

ANNO 1684.

In this Year the Prisoners at *Bristol* writ an *Epistle* to the Yearly Meeting of their Friends in *London*, dated

"BRISTOL, *Newgate* the 17th of the third Month 1684.

"Dear Friends,

"IN Regard the Time is near when Friends from most Parts may be together, we thought it might not be unwelcome that you hear from us also.

"The

BRISTOL.
1684.

“ The Friends who have been long Prisoners in *Bridewell* for not answering
 “ by Money the Keeper's Demands, they being his Prisoners, though kept
 “ there, he did on the 2d Instant remove them hither, so that the Number of
 “ Prisoners in this Goal is above one Hundred; and are so crouded for lodging
 “ in close, dark, damp and Dungeon-like Holes; and many in one Place
 “ called *Paul's*, where never any before was put to lodge that ever we know
 “ or heard of: We say, these Things cry aloud, but many Hearts are hard,
 “ and those who might remedy will not hear, or at least not regard: None
 “ can plead Ignorance, who are any Way concerned to help the Oppressed;
 “ since Friends and Truth are fully cleared so far as we have been able in
 “ letting them understand. And many are so void of Compassion, as to im-
 “ pute it wholly our Faults: And some do account we are used too well.
 “ These Things we mention rather to inform Friends how we are, rather than
 “ to complain. Indeed God hath been so good to us, and still is so, that it
 “ doth outballance all these light Afflictions. He hath given Health, and
 “ also preserved the same in several Appearances of very great Danger,
 “ which Mercy is even to a Wonder. He hath given Comfort, Content,
 “ Unity, Peace and Love amongst us greatly; and by his fatherly Care hath
 “ so provided always for us, that we have had no Want. For all which
 “ Mercies we desire you with us to praise the Lord, and to pray unto him for
 “ us here, that God would for ever keep us in Faithfulness to him, that we
 “ may become even as Monuments of his Mercy, that he who alone is worthy,
 “ who is all and doth all, may have all the Honour, Praise, and Renown,
 “ now, henceforth and for evermore.

“ Within this Week, we are pulled and haled out, and not suffered to meet
 “ together, as hath been formerly allowed us to do: Nay, they will not suffer
 “ it, though all in one and the same Goal: The Keeper saith he hath Orders
 “ for it from his Masters: And so we were thrust and locked into several
 “ Places. But in these Things they have no Conquest, nor Glory, thus to
 “ oppress the Innocent, even in their Prison, where they have thus thrust us
 “ in Heaps: But in this is our Rejoicing, that they cannot keep God from
 “ us, by whose Power we are kept in Patience to suffer these Things from the
 “ Hands of Men, to whom we never did any Harm, to whom God grant
 “ Repentance, before his Anger break forth in an overflowing Scourge, and
 “ there be no Remedy, even so be it, if the Lord will. Blessed be God, we
 “ are well, and our Love is dearly to all our dear and truly beloved Friends
 “ in the holy Truth of God, whose Lives, Liberty, and Peace, we pray God
 “ preserve: In your Approaches to the Throne of Grace forget not us; that
 “ is the greatest Good we can do to each other, who have none in Heaven
 “ but the Lord, nor desire any on Earth but him only. Our Wives Love is
 “ dearly to you all, and the Loves of many more here, in whose Names we
 “ salute you, and shall rejoice to hear from you of the Glory of the Lord, and
 “ the Prosperity of his holy, innocent, peaceable, and everlasting Truth,
 “ *Amen.* In Truth of Love we remain your Friends,

Charles Harford

Richard Snead

Charles Jones.

ANNO 1685.

1685.

The Prisoners abovementioned still continuing under Confinement, wrote
 another Epistle to the Yearly Meeting, dated in the 4th Month 1685, as follows,

“ *Dear Friends and Brethren!*

“ **T**HIS being a Season wherein you may be glad, as well as desirous
 “ to see, or at least to hear from one another as Fellow-members of
 “ that living Body of which *Christ Jesus* is Head, we thought it not unreasonable
 “ that you might hear from us, who though still in Bonds, yet in Good
 “ Satisfaction, knowing that Affliction is that in which all the Righteous
 “ in all Ages ever past to God's Heavenly Kingdom: And who are faithful,

Vol. I.

T

“ walking

A second
Epistle to the
Yearly Meet-
ing.

BRISTOL.
1685.

“ walking in this true, right Way, even to their Lives End, may thereby
“ have a Token from the Lord, that they are not Bastards, but Sons, be-
“ cause every Son whom he loveth he doth rebuke and chasten, which God
“ intends for our Good, that we may learn never to stray from him, who is the
“ Rock of Ages, and the Foundation of the Righteous in all and every Age;
“ the Fountain of all Goodness, and the Life of all Things, without whom
“ we can do nothing, and by whom we may be able to do all Things. This
“ is our God, and as we have waited on him, he hath suffered us to want no
“ good Thing, neither hath any Thing seemed hard to us, insomuch that we
“ can truly say, to God's Glory only, It is manifold better to suffer with the
“ People of God, than to enjoy the Pleasures of this sinful World. Those
“ endure but for a Season, but this worketh to the Faithful an eternal Weight
“ of Glory, which Eye hath not seen, nor Ear heard, nor can Man's Heart
“ think what God hath laid up in his Son Christ Jesus for those who in Patience
“ continue through the Day of Trial, which God bringeth on the Earth, to
“ try all the Inhabitants thereof, that all Works may be known, of what Sort
“ it is.

“ *Dear Friends!* In your Approaches to the Lord, pray to him for us:
“ O let us watch and pray, and that continually, one for another, that God
“ would keep us faithful by his divine Grace, to serve him in Meekness, holy
“ Fear and Innocency, unto our Lives End: This hath been the Hope and
“ End of our Calling from the dark Ways in the World to the marvellous
“ Light of Christ Jesus, which hath shined in our Hearts, through which
“ we have seen the Way of Life, and know him who is the Truth, and there
“ is not another. God enable us to love him above all, and to cleave to him
“ through the Loss of all: We are but Worms, and of no Might, and have
“ none in Heaven but him alone, nor can desire any (no not in all the Earth
“ nor Earthly Things) but he only. He hath helped us, and doth, and so
“ ever must do, or else we shall fail, but God will never fail those who truly
“ rely and depend upon him to the End.

“ Praise God with us for his wonderful Goodness in preserving our Health, a
“ Work to a Wonder: O, that we may ever be thankful for it: And also
“ that he has thus made us worthy to suffer for his Name's sake only. We are
“ not quite an Hundred; are well, and in good Content, Peace and Love, and
“ want nothing. We pray God keep you, and crown your Assemblies with
“ his ancient Glory. *Amen.*

“ We and our Wives have our dear Loves remembered to you all, with the
“ rest here. We subscribe for our selves and the rest,

Bristol. Newgate, the
fourth Month 1685.

“ Your faithful Friends and Brethren.

Richard Snead

Charles Jones

Charles Harford

Paul Moon.

After this manner continued they in Christian Patience and Meekness, till the coming out of King James's Proclamation for a free Pardon, with his special Warrant for comprehending the *Quakers* therein: Upon which they were set at Liberty, and from thenceforth the Persecution in this City for their religious meeting together entirely ceased.

Thus it pleased God in his merciful Providence to work Deliverance for his People in a singular and extraordinary manner, by making even a *Popish* King instrumental in his Hand for opening the Prison Doors, and setting true *Protestants* at Liberty from the Oppressions they had long groaned under by the Severity of Laws formed against them by those who, while they called themselves by the Name of *Protestants*, had put in Practice the worst Part of *Popery*, viz. that of Persecution for Conscience-sake. Being thus delivered from the Hands of those who sought their Destruction, they enjoyed the Freedom of their religious Assemblies, and an Enlargement of Heart therein to praise the Name of the Lord for his Mercy manifested in so singular a Deliverance.

C H A P.

C H A P. V.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

ANNO 1655.

MARY FISHER, James Lancaster, and John Cunningham, for giving Christian Exhortations to the Priests and People, when assembled in the Places for publick Worship, were committed to Prison.

Imprison-
ments.

John Whitehead, for admonishing the People in the Grave Yard at North Crowley, was evil treated by them, receiving many Kicks and Blows with Christian Patience and Meekness.

Abuses.

ANNO 1656.

1656.

Richard Mark, Walter Mably, William Glidwell, and John Lucas, were committed to the Fleet Prison in London, for refusing to Swear to their Answers to Bills against them in the Exchequer for Tithes; and while there confined, a Seizure was made, by the Impropiators, their Prosecutors, of their Goods at Home.

Imprisonment
for not Swear-
ing.

Richard Hunt, and George Salter, were imprisoned in Ailbury Goal for refusing to pay Tithes.

and for Tithes.

ANNO 1658.

1658.

John Brown of Wesson, refusing to Swear when summoned to serve upon a Jury, was fined 20 s. and committed to Ailbury Goal, where he lay twelve Weeks.

Fines.

In this and the foregoing Year, were taken from several Persons in this County for Demands of 3 l. 9 s. 6 d. for Tithes, Goods worth 28 l. 11 s. And for Demands of 1 l. 4 s. 3 d. for repairing the publick Worship Houses, Goods to the Value of 3 l. 15 s. 8 d. And for the same Cause Mary Chapman had her Bible taken away for lack of other Distress.

Distresses.

Such was the Superstition of those Times, that many of the People called Quakers, going to religious Meetings a few Miles distant from their own Dwellings, were taken up by Officers, under Pretence of breaking the Sabbath, had their Horses impounded, and sometimes detained for a Penalty of 10 s. for travailing on that Day: And at other Times themselves, for refusing to pay that Penalty, were set in the Stocks.

Superstitious
Laws execut-
ed.

ANNO 1659.

1659.

Sarah Lamburne a Widow, Mother of six small Children, was a Prisoner in Ailbury Goal, and continued there a long Time.

S. Lamburne.

ANNO 1660.

1660.

On the 30th of the Month called January, were Prisoners in the County Goal sixty three Persons for the following Causes, viz.

Three for refusing to pay Tithes, viz. Ralph Trumper, Thomas Flookton, and John Lucas.

Imprisonment
of 63 Persons
for diverse
Causes.

Eight

BUCK-
INGHAM-
SHIRE.
1660.

Eight for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, when tendred them by three officious Justices, who had come to a Meeting on purpose to apprehend them, viz. John Whitehead, Richard Hunt, John Cunningham, Robert Ball, Edward Andrews, Stephen Marshall, Josias Bringham, and James Brierly.

Seventeen, who were taken out of a Meeting by Soldiers, and carried to Justices, who upon their refusing to Swear, sent them to Prison, viz. Henry Hall, John Burrows, John Thornton, John Cunningham, Robert Reyborne, Henry Cunningham, Edward Swaine, Thomas Palmer, Richard Bawne, Robert Daggery, William Glidwell, Nicholas Steel, Thomas Hartwell, Edward Franklin, George Franklin, Robert Boswell, and John Austin.

Fifteen, who were taken out of a Meeting by armed Men with a Warrant from the Earl of Bridgewater, and for refusing the Oath committed to Prison, namely, Robert Jones, John Brown, Edward Chester, Thomas Martin, Edward Brampton, William Libertie, William Francis, Henry Newman, Henry House, Francis Ceave, John Briden, Robert Wallis, John Stratton, James Lane, and Jon. Houghton.

Eight were imprisoned illegally, viz. for refusing the Oath when tendred only by one Justice, viz. Henry Parkes, Thomas Rogers, William Pratt, Edward Hare, John Bovington, Edward Morrard, William Eldridge, and Richard Spott.

Seven taken forcibly by Soldiers out of their own Houses, and for refusing to Swear, sent to Goal, viz. Richard Marks, Robert Newman, Henry Glidwell, Walter Mably, Robert Glidwell, Thomas Glidwell, and William Mouse.

Five imprisoned for being at a Meeting, viz. Isaac Pennington, George Salter, Thomas Pewsey, William Sexton, and Edward Burton.

About the same Time Thomas Burgis of Stony-Stratford, Thomas Davis of Bradwell-Abbey, John York of Handlip, Thomas Ellingham of North Crowley, and John Wilmot of Tinsweck, were taken from their own Houses and Business, had the Oath of Allegiance tendred them by the King's Commissioners, and were by them sent to Buckingham Goal; as was also Matthew Draper of Buckingham, who appeared before the same Commissioners upon a Citation.

1661.

ANNO 1661.

Commitment
of C. Taylor.

On the 11th of the Month called August, Christopher Taylor of Otley in Yorkshire, was at a Meeting in the House of Anne Thurston Widow, of Whitechurch; the Priest of the Parish, hearing of it, sent for a Justice of the Peace, who came in Person, and required Sureties of Christopher for his good Behaviour and Appearance at Sessions, which he refusing to give, was committed to Ailbury Goal, the Mittimus being written in the Justices own Name, without any Mention of the King's Authority.

8 Sent to Pri-
son from a
Meeting at
Culverton.

On the 1st of September, a Meeting being appointed at Culverton near Stony-Stratford. Six or seven Soldiers entered with Pistols, having with them two Constables, whom they ordered to take out the principal Men, but they refused, saying, they knew them not, at which the Soldiers were angry, and took away eight Persons, and carried them before the Deputy Lieutenant of the County, who requiring Sureties, which they refused to give, he formed a Mittimus (with much ado, for he was near four Hours about it) in which it was said, that those Persons were brought before him by the Constables, whenas the Constables themselves were forced thither by the Soldiers. The Names of seven of the Persons so committed were Matthew Draper, John Crook, John Forster, John Cunningham, Thomas Rose, Thomas Davy, and Thomas Cocke.

1664.

ANNO 1664.

Distresses
made.

Mary Chapman and John Puttivant of Sberington, Thomas Harvey, Robert Page, Elizabeth Goodman, Joseph Brinkloe, Edward Austin, George Cooper, Adam King, and John Butler, all of Wandon, and Thomas Gresham of Olney, had

had Goods taken from them by Distress for absenting themselves from the National Worship.

In the same Year *William Glidwell, Thomas Palmer, Edward Swain, John Cunningham, Robert Benton, Robert Daggery, Robert Newman, Richard Hunt, Richard Marks, Henry Hall, William Mause, Henry Glidwell, James Brierly, Henry Cunningham, Walter Mably, Nicholas Steel, Henry King, John Thornton, Thomas Ellingham, and Richard Bawne*, taken out of a Meeting at *Newport Pagnell*, were committed to *Ailbury Goal* for three Months upon the Conventicle Act, but were detained there much longer by the Contrivance of the Goaler and Clerk of the Peace, who revived old Indictments laid against them for absenting from Church, &c. Their Usage in Prison was cruel, being kept in a dark Room, exposed to the Weather so that they could not lie dry in their Beds, when they had any, for they were obliged for some Time to lodge upon Straw, and some of them, being poor Tradesmen, were denied the Use of a Place to work in, in order to provide for themselves the Necessaries of Life.

BUGK-
INGHAM-
SHIRE.

1664.

Imprisonment
by the Conven-
ticle Act.

Cruel Usage.

1665.

Prosecutions
for Tithes.

George Salter of *Hedgerly Dean*, prosecuted by *John Bassett* Priest, for Tithes under 12 l. in Value, had his Cows, Hogs, Sheep, and a Cart taken away to the Amount of 50 l. And about the same Time *Seth Tomkins, John Fensum, Thomas Harvey, and John White*, were imprisoned for refusing to pay Tithes.

Burial of E.
Perrot pre-
vented, and
10 Persons
sent to Prison.

On the first Day of the Month called *July* this Year, the Corps of *Edward Perrot* was carrying through the Streets of *Amerham*, in order to his Interment; when *Ambrose Bennet* of *Bulstrodes*, a Justice of the Peace, ordered the Persons attending the Funeral to be stopt, struck one of the Bearers with his drawn Sword, and violently threw the Coffin from their Shoulders. The Corps, thus inhumanly treated, was left lying in the Highway, while the Justice withdrew to an Inn, and in Concert with *Sir Thomas Clayton*, sent for on purpose, committed to *Ailbury Prison* *Isaac Penington, John Raunce, John Mead, Thomas Ellwood, Thomas Lane, William Sexton, Thomas Dell, Joseph Rose, Jeremiah Stevens, and Ralph Trumper*. Thus by burying them alive he prevented their charitable Intent of interring their deceased Friend, whose Body they took by Force from his Widow, to whom its Disposition legally belonged, and buried it in the Backside, or as they term it, the unconsecrated Part of the Ground called the *Church-Yard*. At the Assizes a few Days after, the Prisoners were brought before Judge *Moreton*, who refused to hear their Case, but referred it back to the same Justices, who fin'd them, and sent them back to Prison for one Month. One of them, *Isaac Penington*, soon after his Discharge from that Imprisonment, was taken out of his own House, without any Warrant, by a Soldier, who said, *he was come to fetch him before Sir Philip Palmer*: *Sir Philip* sent him under a Guard of Soldiers to *Ailbury Goal*, with a *Mittimus*, ordering him to be kept there during the Pleasure of the Earl of *Bridgewater*, who, it seems, had causelessly conceived a private Grudge against this innocent Man; which farther appeared during his Confinement, for when the Plague broke out in the Goal, and Application was made to the Earl for his Removal to some other Place, he would not consent to it: He continued Prisoner at that Time about three Quarters of a Year, without any legal Cause assigned for his Commitment.

Cruel Usage
of I. Pening-
ton.

ANNO 1666.

1666.

I. Penington
again impri-
soned.

Isaac Penington, about three Weeks after his Release from his last Imprisonment, was again apprehended by Soldiers sent from *Sir Philip Palmer*, by Order, as was said, of the Earl of *Bridgewater*, who took him out of his Bed, and conveyed him directly to *Ailbury Goal*, where, without any legal Cause, he was kept a Year and an Half in Rooms so cold, damp, and unhealthy, that he contracted a Sickness of several Months Continuance. During this long Confinement he was never called for either at Sessions or Assize, but by some illegal

BUCK-
INGHAM-
SHIRE.
1666.

Sufferings of
R. Berry and
J. Brown.
Account of
many Impri-
sonments.

Means returned on the Calendar to remain in Prison. At length, being re-
moved by *Habeas Corpus* to the King's Bench Bar, the Court, surprized to find
a Man kept so long in Prison for nothing, set him at Liberty.

In this Year *Richard Berry* of *Ivinghoe*, prosecuted for Tithe by *Reynold Bir-
den* Priest, was excommunicated and Imprisoned in *Ailbury* Goal, where he
continued several Years. Also *John Brown* had his Goods taken by Distress to
the Value of 15*l.* at the Suit of *John Stokes* of *Weston Turvill*, Tithe-farmer.

On the 10th of the Month called *June* this Year, *James Lane*, *John Ellis*,
Roger Deane, *John Holliday*, *Thomas Hawkins*, *James Rouse*, *Thomas Sellat*,
John Barton, *Robert Jones*, and *John Brown*, with *Thomas Morton* of *Farrier's*
End in the Parish of *Drayton Beauchamp*, at whose House they were met, were
committed, by *Charles Cheyney* and *Edmund West* Justices, to *Ailbury* Goal,
where they were close confined three Months. In the same Year *Philip Ford*,
committed to Prison for refusing to Swear, was put into the common Goal
among Felons, and not permitted the Use of a Bed, when sent him. For the
same Cause also were committed *Francis Sear*, *Thomas Dell*, *Robert Hartwell*,
Robert Swain, *William Aldridge*, *Henry Purfoot*, and *William Towers*. Many
others were taken out of their religious Meetings and sent to Goal, namely,
Michael Stancliff, *John Fenwick*, *Samuel Darvall*, *Richard Martin*, *John Bar-
ringer*, *Henry Roberts*, *Richard Hartwell*, *Joshua Hartwell*, *Samuel Brown*,
Richard Goodman, *Abraham Barber*, *John Lane*, and *Thomas Wallis*. Besides
these, several taken at Meetings were committed on the Act for Banishment, to
wit, *John Partridge*, *James Boyse*, *Philip Ford*, *Thomas Sellat*, *Thomas Eggleston*,
John Ellis, *Samuel Budd*, *William Lee*, *Richard Pedder*, *Jane Messenger*, *Mor-
gan Watkins*, *Mary Barton*, *Thomas Ellwood*, *Francis Cawdry*, *Mercy Watkins*,
and *Francis Salter*.

1667.

Imprisonments
for Tithes,

and for
Meeting.

ANNO 1667.

Ralph Trumper was imprisoned for Tithes at the Suit of *Thomas Crawley*,
Priest of *Amersham*: Also *John White*, prosecuted by *Timothy Hall*, Priest of
Monks-Risborow, not only endured twenty eight Weeks Imprisonment, but
upon a Verdict obtained against him for 2*l.* 2*s.* for four Years Tithe, suf-
fered a Seizure of his Goods to the Value of 92*l.*

In the same Year *George Salter*, and *William Russell* the Younger, taken at
a Meeting in *Salter's-house* at *Hedgerly Deane*, were committed to Prison and
detained four Months.

1668.

Prosecution
of J. Lucas,

and R. Trum-
per.

ANNO 1668.

John Lucas of *Wingrave*, was kept Prisoner a long Time on a *Significavit* of
Excommunication issued against him upon a Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical
Court for Tithes.

Ralph Trumper of *Amersham*, for Tithes of about 16*l.* Value, had Goods and
Chattels taken from him worth 52*l.* and was also imprisoned on the following Oc-
casion: Before he was called a *Quaker*, he had taken a Lease of his Farm, with a
Covenant therein to pay the Church Rates, which afterward he was convinced in
his Conscience he ought not to do. For Non-performance of that Covenant, his
Landlord *Sir William Drake* arrested him, and sent him to Prison: After some
Time he applied to the Courts of *King's Bench* and *Chancery*, in the latter of
which he obtained an *Injunction* to stop the Proceedings at common Law; but
before the Service of that *Injunction* *Sir William* died, and he was discharged:
Nevertheless,

1669.

Farther Pro-
ceedings of
R. Trumper,

ANNO 1669.

He was again arrested on the same Pretence, by *James Perrot*, who had been
Sir William's Steward, and was his Executor: Upon this he was again impris-
oned

soned and put to much Trouble and Charge; but an Error in the Proceeding obliged *Barrot* to drop his Suit.

In this Year *George Salter*, for Tithes of 5*l.* 5*s.* Value, was imprisoned at the Suit of *John Bassett* Priest of *Farnham Royal*, and also suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 15*l.* Also *Ralph Trumper* for Tithes valued at 28*l.* 10*s.* had Corn, Cattle, and other Things taken from him to the Value of 112*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

Henry Ball of *Colehill*, was committed to *Ailbury* Goal at the Suit of *James Eeles* of *Amersham*, Tithe-farmer.

ANNO 1670.

John Brown was imprisoned for Tithes at the Suit of *William Baker* a Tithe-farmer of *Weston*. The same *John Brown*, for being at a Meeting in *Ailbury*, suffered Distress of his Barley, without any Account rendered by the Prosecutors. And for being at a Meeting at *Tring* he was fined 8*l.* for which, by Warrant from Sir *Richard Anderson* of *Penley*, three Cows and a Bull were distrained, and valued by two Neighbours at 11*l.* but *Anderson* afterward sent two other Appraisers, which rated them at just the Value of the Fine, and then he ordered them to be driven to his own House.

In the Month called *June* this Year, the Friends, being forcibly kept out of their Meeting-house at *Sberington*, met in the Street, for which several were fined, and Distresses were made,

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
On <i>Richard Hunt</i> for Preaching, to the Value of	12	14	0
<i>James Brierly</i>	11	8	0
<i>John Baringer</i> of <i>Olney</i>	0	6	0
<i>John Lane</i> of <i>Landon</i>	0	8	0
<i>Thomas Hooton</i>	0	8	0
	25	4	0

In the next Month, for a Meeting at the House of *William Russel* at *Jordans*, in the Parish of *Giles-Chalfont*, were taken

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>Henry Tredway</i> , an Horse worth	4	0	0
<i>Nicholas Skidmore</i> , Sheep, &c. worth	5	7	0
<i>Roger Dunton</i> , Goods worth	0	12	0
	9	19	0

In *September*, *Bridget Atley* Widow, of *Horton*, was fined 8*l.* 5*s.* for a Meeting at *Colebrook*, for which Fine two Feather-beds, and other Household Goods, were taken from her.

Remarkable at this Time was the Case of *Thomas Zachary*, a Citizen of *London*, who having an House at *Beconsfield* in this County, sometimes resided there. Two noted Informers, *Lacy* and *Aris*, swore, at all Adventures, before Sir *Thomas Clayton*, that *Thomas Zachary* and his Wife were at a Meeting at *Jordans* on the 21st of *August* 1670, whereupon the Justices, as forward to convict, as they to inform, fined him 30*l.* for himself, his Wife, and a pretended Preacher, and issued his Warrant for Distress. *Thomas* and his Wife were then both at *London*, wherefore he appealed to the Quarter Sessions; the Justice, to screen the Informers, telling *Thomas* that he suffered justly, and he in his own Defence answering, that the Righteous were oppressed, and the Wicked went unpunished, interpreted those Words, as a Reflection upon the Government, and an high Misdemeanour, and for refusing Sureties for his Appearance at the next Quarter Sessions, committed him to *Ailbury* Goal. This was done with a View of preventing him from prosecuting his Appeal; but some Friends of his, especially

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.
1669.

Distresses for Tithes.

H. Ball imprisoned.

1670.

Persecution of J. Brown.

Fines for Meeting.

More Fines for Meeting.

Distress of a Widow's Effects.

Remarkable Case of T. Zachary.

BUCK-
INGHAM-
SHIRE.
1670.

Informers con-
victed of Per-
jury.

especially *Thomas Ellwood*, a knowing and active Man, took Care of the Af-
fair, and at the next Sessions at *Wickham*, proved by clear Evidence, that
T. Zachary and his Wife were in *London* all that Day whereon the Informers
had sworn they were at the Meeting in *Buckinghamshire*; so that, notwithstand-
ing all Endeavours to the contrary, the Jury found it for the *Appellants*, the Con-
viction was set aside, and the Money deposited for the Fines at entering the Ap-
peals should have been returned, but they could never get more than 10*l.* of
it, the Clerk of the Peace keeping the rest. *Thomas Zachary* was also brought
to the same Sessions, but Justice *Clayton* found Means to prevail with others on
the Bench to remand him to Prison till another Sessions. In the mean Time
Thomas Ellwood got an Indictment drawn against the Informers for *Perjury*,
which was found by the grand Jury, which they were obliged to traverse: So
they were bound for each other to appear at the next Sessions at *Ailbury*. Upon
Trial they were convicted of *wilful Perjury*, and had been taken up imme-
diately had they not fled from Justice; but an Order of Court was directed to
all *Mayors, Bayliffs, Constables, &c.* to apprehend them, which so terrified them,
that hopeless of carrying on their old Trade, and dreading a Goal, they parted:
Aris appeared no more in that County: *Lacy* lurked privily up and down, till
Hunger and *Necessity* forced him on the best Expedient he could take: He went
to the innocent Man in Goal, threw himself at his Feet, confessed his Fault,
and asked Forgiveness, which the *Good-natur'd* Man readily granted him, and
used his Interest with his Friends to mitigate the Prosecution against him. The
poor Fellow, overcome by so much Goodness, desisted from his former Course
of living, returned to his Family and Labour, and for the future acted the
Part of an honest and industrious Man. But so angry was the Convicting
Justice, that he persuaded the rest at the Quarter Sessions, to tender the Oath
of Allegiance to *Thomas Zachary*, who, for refusing it, was kept in Prison a
long Time after.

1671.

ANNO 1671.

Distresses for
not Swearing.

Premunire.

Imprisonment
of T. Burgis.

Imprisonment
of N. Skid-
more and J.
Biggs.

Thomas Saunders of *Ilmore*, and *Robert Kingham* of *Wooburne*, for refusing to
Swear, had their Goods taken by Distress, the former to the Value of 40*s.*
and the latter to the Value of 30*s.* And for the same Cause *John Raunce*,
and *Nicholas Roy*, were committed to Prison under Sentence of *Premunire*.

Thomas Burgis of *Stony-Stratford*, for refusing to pay toward repairing the
Steeple-house there, was committed to *Ailbury* Goal on a *Significavit* of *Excom-
munication*.

Nicholas Skidmore of *Giles-Chalfont*, for refusing to pay Tithes and *Easter-
Offerings*, was excommunicated, and afterward imprisoned at the Suit of *William
Rolls* Priest: And for the same Cause *John Biggs* of *Wotton* was committed to
the County Goal. Others had their Corn taken out of the Field without their
Consent, viz.

Tithes of
Corn.

John Brown of *Weston-Turvil*, to the Value of

John White of *Meadle*

Ralph Trumper of *Amer sham*

l. s. d.

40 14 0

73 5 0

56 0 0

169 19 0

1672.

ANNO 1672.

Release of
Prisoners.

By Letters patent from King *Charles the Second*, were this Year discharged
out of Prison in this County, *John Raunce* and *Nicholas Noy*, who lay under Sen-
tence of *Premunire*.

1674.

ANNO 1674.

Distresses for
Tithes.

Taken from *John Morton* of *Amer sham*, for 6*l.* 3*s.* Tithe, Goods worth
22*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* and from *John Brown* of *Weston-Turvil*, for 15*l.* Tithe, Sheep,
&c. worth 50*l.* George

George Salter was cast into Prison for Tithes at the Suit of John Bassett Priest of Farnham Royal, and had also his Goods seized by Bayliffs to the Value of 59*l*.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.
1674.

ANNO 1675.

John Morton suffered nine Weeks Imprisonment, for Tithes of a trivial Value, at the Suit of James Eeles Tithe-farmer.

Imprisonment
for Tithes.
1675.

In this Year Thomas Harman and Thomas Hooton, both of Sherington, were fined for being at a Meeting, the former of them 10*l*. 10*s*. and the latter 10*l*. 5*s*. upon the Information of Ignatius Fuller Priest of that Parish, and a poor labouring Man his Agent: Those Fines were levied by Distress of their Cattle and other Goods, some of which the informing Priest took to his own Use. This Parson, at another Time, caused the Officers of the Town to attend him to a Meeting, pretending a Warrant, but producing none; he ordered them to seize a Table, and then took it from the Constable, saying he would have it for Part of a Fine imposed upon James Brierly of Olney, for a Meeting at his House; though the House where the Meeting was, neither belonged to James Brierly, neither was he at the Meeting for which the pretended Fine was charged. But it was frequent with such bold Informers to possess themselves of other Mens Goods under a false Pretence of Law, and to act under Colour of Warrants without producing them.

Tithes.
Fines for
Meeting on
Information of
a Priest.

This Year was also taken for Fines imposed for Meetings,

	<i>l</i> .	<i>s</i> .	<i>d</i> .
From Henry Hall of Newport-Pagnell, Wood worth	3	0	0
Henry Cunningham of the same, Bras and Pewter	4	10	0
William Glidwell of the same, Hay and other Things	4	10	0
Richard Marks of North-Crawley, Sheep	3	0	0
	15	0	0

Fines for
Meetings.

ANNO 1676.

William Russell, near eighty Years of Age, and almost blind, was cast into Prison at the Suit of William Rolls Priest of Giles-Chalfont, for Tithes of 5*l*. 14*s*. Value, for which he had afterward taken from him Cows and Sheep worth 22*l*. 12*s*. Also John Moreton, at the same Priest's Suit, was imprisoned six Weeks, after which, for Tithe valued at 8*l*. 6*s*. he had Cattle taken away to the Value of 26*l*. 12*s*. 6*d*.

1676.
Imprisonments
for Tithes.

William Grinsdale of Peter's-Chalfont, for his Absence from the National Worship, had Goods taken from him worth 28*s*. He had also two Thirds of his Estate seized for the King, for which the Bayliffs took in this and the succeeding Year, two Cows worth 6*l*. 10*s*. For the same Cause Thomas Saunders of Ilmore, suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 40*s*.

Distresses for
Absence from
the National
Worship.

ANNO 1678.

In the Month called August this Year, John Stratton of Ivigoe, a poor Husbandman, was taken from his Wife and eight Children, by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, on the Information and Prosecution of Francis Duncomb Priest of that Parish, whose Son, appointed a special Bayliff on that Occasion, conveyed Stratton to the County Goal, where he continued Prisoner twenty one Months to his great Loss, and the sore Affliction of his Family. The Cause of his Imprisonment was, for not appearing before the Surrogate of the Bishop of Lincoln, to answer a Charge of absenting from his Parish Church, and for not receiving the Sacrament.

1678.
Hard Case of
a poor Hus-
bandman.

In November this Year, John Wyatt, an Husbandman of Long-Crendon, was committed to Prison for not paying Tithes, and continued above three Years

Death of
J. Wyatt in
Prison.

BUCK-
INGHAM-
SHIRE.
1677.

Distress on
J. Morton.
1679.

Distress for
Tithes.

1680.

Distresses for
repairing a
Chappel.

1683:

Imprisonment
of J. Thorn-
ton, and R.
Marks.

22 Persons
sent to Prison.

under Confinement till he died. And in the same Month *John Morton* was sent to *Ailbury* Goal, whence after twelve Weeks he was removed by *Habeas Corpus* to *London*, and discharged. Nevertheless on a Trial at the Assizes for Tithes, he suffered Distress of his Cattle and Sheep to the Value of 24*l.* 10*s.* His Prosecutor was *William Rolls* Priest of *Giles-Clalfont*.

ANNO 1679.

William Russell for Tithes of 8*l.* Value, had his Cows, Sheep, and Lambs taken away, worth 22*l.* 9*s.* at the Suit of the same Priest.

ANNO 1680.

In this Year the Chappel at *Biddlefden* being repaired, the Charges of such Reparation were put into the Rate of the Poor, which being known to *Richard Baker* and *Francis Warr*, they tendered to the Collectors their full Proportion for the Poor, but refused to pay the other Part; wherefore the former suffered Distress of his Sheep to the Value of 2*l.* 10*s.* and the other to the Value of 3*l.* 10*s.*

ANNO 1683.

In the Month called *June* this Year, *John Thornton* of *Sbeinton* was committed to *Ailbury* Goal on a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo* for Tithes: And about the same Time *Richard Marks* suffered near ten Months Imprisonment in the same Goal for refusing to pay Tithes.

About the 1st of the Month called *July*, *Dennis Hampson*, a Justice of the Peace, and Captain of the County-Troop, came with a Party of Horse to a Meeting near *Wooburne*, and by a forced Construction, called their *silent Assembly*, a Riot, and under that Pretence sent two and twenty of them to Prison,

Thomas Dell
John Ellis
Andrew Brothers-
Thomas Sexton
Henry Mafon
Stephen Pewsey
William Tanner
John Jennings

Richard James
William Batchelor
Edward Moore
William Aldridge
John Dolbin
John Reeve
Robert Austin
George Salter

Robert Aldridge
Timothy Child
John Smith
Richard Baldwin
Robert Moore
William Sexton

1684 and
1685.

Death of
J. Smith and
W. Turner
in Prison.

Exorbitant
Seizures.

ANNO 1684 and 1685.

John Smith, one of the two and twenty Prisoners last mentioned, died, during his last Confinement, on the 26th of *September* 1684: Another of them, viz. *William Tanner* of *Uxbridge*, also died a Prisoner on the 12th of *September* 1685. They finished their Course in Christian Patience and Resignation to the Will of God, who enabled them to continue steadfast in their Testimony to the great and necessary Duty of Assembling together to worship him in Spirit and in Truth.

Several Persons in this County were returned into the Exchequer for Tithes of 20*l.* per Month for Absence from the National Worship, and suffered exorbitant Seizures of their Cattle and Goods, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
<i>Francis Ware</i> of <i>Biddlefden</i> , to the Value of	140	0	0
<i>John Pomfret</i> of <i>Lilington</i>	70	0	0
<i>John King</i> of <i>Padbury</i>	25	0	0
<i>William Swannell</i> of the same	60	0	0

Goods under-
sold.

All which Cattle and Goods amounting to 295 0 0

were

were disposed of by publick Sale for no more than 90*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*—less than a third Part of their real Value.

In like manner, and for the same Cause were taken From *William Grimdale*, to the Value of 12*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.* And by Justices Warrant from *George Salter*, Cattle, &c. worth 12*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.* From *George Belch* of *Rickmansworth*, three Geldings worth 23*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.* and when he appealed to the Quarter Sessions, his Appeal, not being in *Latin*, was rejected, and treble Costs were given against him, for which his Horses and other Goods were taken away to the Value of 40*l.*

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

1684 and 1685.

G. Belch's Appeal rejected.

ANNO 1686.

1686.

William Ruffel, on a Verdict obtained against him for 4*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* Tithes, at the Suit of *William Rolls* Priest, had Sheep and Lambs taken from him to the Value of 15*l.*

Prosecutions for Tithes.

John Morton at the same Priest's Suit was imprisoned twelve Weeks, and afterward at the Assizes had a Verdict given against him for 23*l.* 14*s.* for Tithes, for which Cattle were seized by an Execution to a much greater Value.

Release of Prisoners.

In this Year seventeen of the Persons before mentioned, imprisoned for a Meeting at *Woodburne*, were set at Liberty by King *James's* Proclamation for a free Pardon, having been under close Confinement about two Years and three Quarters.

By the same Proclamation were also discharged, *Joseph Cook* of *Edgborough*, long imprisoned, for Marrying otherwise than according to the Liturgy of the Church of *England*; *John Thornton* Prisoner on a Writ *de Excommunicato capi-endo* above two Years and three Quarters for Tithes, and *Thomas Olliffe* of *Ailbury*, after thirty Months Imprisonment for not receiving the Sacrament.

Taken about this Time by Distresses at *Waterford* and *Charlewood*, for religious Meetings,

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>William Aires</i> , Household Goods worth	15	0	0
<i>George Mead</i> , Flax	5	8	0
<i>John Wells</i> , an Horse and Cart	16	0	0
<i>Thomas Howard</i> , Goods	0	15	0
<i>Thomas Tanner</i> , Leather	20	0	0
	57	3	0

Distresses for Meeting.

ANNO 1687.

1687.

William Ruffel was again imprisoned about three Months at the Suit of *W. Rolls* Priest, and had afterward taken from him by an Execution, Cows, Sheep, &c. worth 23*l.* 5*s.* for a Verdict of 7*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* against him for Tithes. Also *Josiah Lane* at the same Priest's Suit suffered Imprisonment about twelve Weeks, and afterward suffered Distress to the Value of 23*l.* on a Verdict given against him for 7*l.* Tithes.

Imprisonment for Tithes.

ANNO 1689.

1689.

In this and the two foregoing Years were taken out of the Fields in Harvest for Tithes,

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>Thomas White</i> of <i>Oulswick</i> , Corn worth	16	18	0
<i>John White</i> of <i>Meadle</i> , Hay and Corn	42	4	0
<i>Edward Cook</i> of <i>Bowbrick-Hill</i>	8	15	0
	67	17	0

Tithes of Corn, &c.

Carried over

BUCK-
INGHAM-
SHIRE.
1689.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Brought over	67	17	0
William Russel of Giles-Chalfont	13	1	0
Josiah Lane of the same, Grass and Corn worth	7	11	6
Edward Belfon of Hadenham, Corn worth	2	11	0
Henry Child of Amersham	7	13	0
John Morton of the same	5	8	0
	104	1	6

1690.

ANNO 1690.

Imprisonment
and Distress
of G. Salter.

George Salter, after several Months Imprisonment at the Suit of Dr. Charles Hickman Priest of Farnham-Royal, had a Verdict against him at the Assizes for 12 *l.* 10 *s.* for two Years Tithe, for which his Cattle, Corn, and Household Goods were seized at several Times to the Value of 62 *l.* 12 *s.* 10 *d.*

Prosecutions
of J. Lane.

On the 28th of the Month called May this Year, Josiah Lane was committed to Ailbury Goal for Tithes, at the Suit of Richard Wilby and Charles Pierce Tithe-farmers, who had before in the same Year taken out of his Barn without any Orders of Law, Corn worth 8 *l.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.* And from Usbridge Market four Hogs worth 3 *l.* but notwithstanding those illegal Seizures, they sued him for the whole Tithes as if they had taken nothing.

C H A P. VI.

CAM-
BRIDGE-
SHIRE.
1653.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE, and ISLE of ELY.

ANNO 1653.

Persecution of
of E. Wil-
liams and M.
Fisher.

THE earliest Account of the Sufferings of this People in Cambridge-shire bears Date in the same Month wherein Oliver Cromwell had assumed the Title of Protector, viz. in December 1653, when Elizabeth Williams and Mary Fisher, the one about fifty, and the other about thirty Years of Age, came from the North of England to Cambridge, and discoursing with some Scholars of Sidney-Sussex College, concerning Matters of Religion, the Scholars asked them *How many Gods there were?* The Women answered, *But one God*, and told them, *they had many whom they made Gods of*, reproving their Ignorance of the *true God and his Worship*. Whereupon the Scholars began to mock and deride them: The Women, observing the Froth and Levity of their Behaviour, told them *they were Antichrists*, and that *their College was a Cage of unclean Birds, and the Synagogue of Satan*. Such severe Reprehensions are usually most offensive to those who most deserve them: Complaint was forthwith made to William Pickering, then Mayor, that two Women were preaching: He sent a Constable for them, and examined them *whence they came, and where they lay last Night?* They answered, that *they were Strangers*, and knew not the Name of the Place, but paid for what they had, and came away. He asked their Names: They replied, *their Names were written in the Book of Life*. He demanded their Husbands Names: They told him, *they*

they had no Husband but Jesus Christ, and he sent them. Upon this the Mayor grew angry, called them Whores, and issued his Warrant to the Constable to whip them at the Market-Cross till the Blood ran down their Bodies; and ordered three of his Serjeants to see that Sentence, equally cruel and lawless, severely executed. The poor Women, kneeling down, in Christian Meekness besought the Lord to forgive him, for that he knew not what he did: So they were led to the Market-Cross, calling upon God to strengthen their Faith: The Executioner commanded them to put off their Clothes, which they refused. Then he stript them naked to the Waste, put their Arms into the Whipping-post, and executed the Mayor's Warrant far more cruelly than is usually done to the worst of Malefactors, so that their Flesh was miserably cut and torn: The Constancy and Patience which they expressed under this barbarous Usage was astonishing to the Beholders, for they endured the cruel Torture without the least Change of Countenance, or Appearance of Uneasiness, and in the midst of their Punishment sang and rejoiced, saying, *The Lord be blessed, the Lord be praised, who hath thus honoured us, and strengthened us thus to suffer for his Name's sake.* After which they kneeled down, and, like the Proto-Martyr Stephen, prayed God to forgive their Persecutors, for they knew not what they had done. As they were led back into the Town, they exhorted the People to fear God, not Man, telling them, *this was but the Beginning of the Sufferings of the People of God:* A Prædiction which was verified by the Sequel of what their Friends in that Place afterward underwent. Then were they thrust out of the Town, no Man daring to shew them any Countenance, or give them any Relief, for though many did secretly commiserate their Case, yet none had Courage to oppose the Current of popular Prejudice, and the misapplied Power of the Magistrate.

CAM-
BRIDGE-
SHIRE,
&c.
1653.

Cruel Whip-
ping.

ANNO 1655.

William Grownes of the Isle of Ely, summoned to serve on a Jury there, for refusing to Swear, suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 3*l.* 8*s.*

On the Day called *Trinity-Sunday*, four Men and four Women, coming from a Meeting at *Little-Port*, were stopt by the Watch, and by order of a Magistrate sent to the Goaler, who shut them up, together with their Horses, all Night, and great Part of next Day, in a Place where they had no lodging but on dirty Pease Straw, which the Hogs had before lain on.

Clement Crabb, taken at a religious Meeting, was imprisoned eleven Weeks till the Sessions, and then discharged, without any Charge exhibited against him.

George Tingy and William Waring, both of *Royston*, and Benjamin and Thomas Brett of *Mildred*, for going to a Meeting on the First-day of the Week, suffered near six Months Imprisonment in *Cambridge Castle*.

Boniface Norris, aged near eighty, for riding to a Meeting about two Miles from his Dwelling, was sent to Prison, where he fell sick, and being permitted to go Home, a few Days after died. During his Imprisonment, his Wife, having publicly reprov'd his Persecutors for their Hypocrisy, was also committed to Prison, where she lay six Months.

For the same Cause, of openly testifying against the Corruption of the Times, several others were imprisoned, to wit, Henry Foster seven Weeks: Philip Williamson almost a Year: Anne Blakely half a Year: Anne Cock and Anne Wilson, three Months. These Imprisonments were by Warrants from the Magistrate, which, however illegal, carried with them the Face of Authority. But at other Times the rude People with grievous Blows, Abuses, and Insults, avenged themselves on those who reprov'd them: By such Abuses of the Populace, Samuel Fulbeck, Henry Place, and Margaret Kellam, suffered much.

Thomas Lightfoot, through the Malice of some high Professors at *Cambridge*, whose Hypocrisy he had testified against, was accused of Blasphemy, in saying, *The Scripture was not THE WORD OF GOD*; an Expression, which though clearly defensible in the Sense he spake it, wherein that Title is properly and essentially

1655.

Distresses for
not Swearing.

Cruel Confinement.

Imprisonments
for Meeting.

Death of B.
Norris in
Goal, and Im-
prisonment of
his Wife.

Illegal Im-
prisonments.

Rage of the
People.

T. Lightfoot
accused of
Blasphemy.

C A M-
BRIDGE-
SHIRE,
&c.
1655.

J. Parnel im-
prisoned.
Distresses for
Tithes.
1656.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

Some put in
Irons.

Death of R.
Crabb.

H. Clifton
confined in a
Dungeon.

Several pu-
nished for
entertaining
Quakers.

Clerk's Wages.

1657.

Distresses for
Tithes, and
for not Swear-
ing.

1658 and
1659.

Barbarous
Actions of
Cambridge
Scholars.

essentially ascribed to *Christ* only, was made criminal in him, and he was there-
upon imprisoned, and Endeavours were used to have taken away his Life, but
God preserved him.

James Parnell, for publishing a *Declaration* against corrupt Ministers and
corrupt Magistrates, was imprisoned in *Cambridge*, and lay there two Sessions.
In this Year several Persons, for Tithes demanded worth but 2*l.* 2*s.* had
their Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 8*l.* 10*s.*

ANNO 1656.

Robert Letchworth, for Tithes under 12*s.* in Value, suffered a Year's Im-
prisonment; and *Jeremy Rose*, for a Demand of 5*s.* for Tithes, was impris-
oned six Months, though his Goods had been taken away for the same De-
mand to four Times that Value.

Edward Wright and *John Feast*, for not paying Tithes, were imprisoned six
Months, and put in Irons as if they had been Felons.

For the same Cause were imprisoned, *Thomas Payne* about seven Months,
Christopher Lancaster about twelve Months, *John Smith* near twenty Weeks,
John Smith the Younger about seventeen Weeks, *Robert Kent* eleven Weeks,
Walter Crane three Months, and *Robert Crabb*, who being taken sick in Pri-
son, was permitted by the Goaler to go Home, where he soon after died.

Henry Clifton, riding through *Upwell*, was taken by a Constable, and carried
to a neighbouring Justice, who, after some Reproach and Derision, sent him
to another Justice about four Miles distant, who, without any legal Cause, sent
him to Prison, where he lay in the Dungeon among condemned Men for a con-
siderable Time.

It was at this Time adjudged penal to entertain any *Quakers*, and for that
Cause only, *William Holmes* and *Thomas Jobson* were indicted at the Assizes, sent
to Prison, and afterwards fined; and the Former had taken from him by Dis-
tress, two Mares worth 8*l.* and the Latter an Horse worth 10*l.* Even *Christian*
Charity it self was by some Magistrates reputed criminal, and *Richard Hubber-*
thorn and *Richard Weaver* were sent to Goal only for visiting *Anne Blakely* in
Prison; and the said *Richard Hubberthorn*, for not departing the Town at the
Mayor's Command, was sent to the House of Correction for three Months; as
were *George Clark* and *Edward Salmon* for working on a Fast-day.

George Nash, *Thomas Poole*, and *John Cranford*, were imprisoned near two
Months for refusing to pay 1*s.* toward the Sexton's Wages.

ANNO 1657.

In this and the next former Year, for Demands of 25*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* for Tithes,
were taken by Distress from sundry Persons, Goods worth 70*l.* 15*s.*

Robert Appelton, chosen Constable, and refusing to Swear, had his Goods taken
away to the Value of 70*l.* 11*s.*

ANNO 1658 and 1659.

When neither the arbitrary Proceedings of the Magistrates, nor the Insults
of the People, could deter the Persons called *Quakers* from their Christian
Duty of assembling together to worship God, the younger Fry of Scholars in
Cambridge, animated by those who should have restrained them, manifested,
by their wicked Behaviour and barbarous Abuses, that their College had been
justly denominated by the first mentioned Christian Women who suffered there,
a Cage of unclean Birds, and the Synagogue of Satan. 'Twas customary with
them, when any of this People passed the Streets to or from their Meetings,
to throw Dirt and Stones at them, to tear their Clothes, and spit in their
Faces. In their publick Meetings the Scholars insulted them by breaking the
Windows, throwing great Stones, and shooting Bullets in, to the Hazard of
their

their Lives. When *William Allen*, who was frequently concerned to preach in those Meetings, was declaring, they would run through the Meeting-house like wild Horses, throwing down all before them, halloeing, stamping, and making a Noise, as if several Drums had been beating, to prevent his being heard: While he was speaking they threw Stones at him, broke his Head in several Places, cut his Face, and bruised his Body: He nevertheless persisted in his known Duty undismayed. In like manner did they abuse others of the Assembly, pulling off the Womens Headclothes, and daubing their Faces with Filth and Excrements. Some of these Barbarities were acted in the Sight of the *Senior Fellows*, and *Proctor* of the College, who shewed no Dislike thereof: and when Alderman *Nicholson*, a sober and moderate Man, grieved at such Inhumanity, complained to the *Proctor*, desiring him to use his Authority to keep the Scholars quiet, he churlishly answered that *he could not, nor would not.*

In these two Years, for Demands of 12*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* for Tithes, were taken by Distress from sundry Persons, Goods worth 27*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* Among which the Case of *Dorothy Motley* might have moved Compassion, who being a poor Widow with seven Children, and her Tithe demanded by the Priest but 3*s.* 4*d.* had taken from her a Cow worth 4*l.* and no Overplus returned, nor Account given.

In 1659 for 6*s.* 4*d.* demanded for Steeple-house Rates, were taken Goods to the Value of 1*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*

ANNO 1660.

Soon after the Restoration of King *Charles the Second*, a Letter was presented to him, subscribed by nine and twenty Sufferers at a Meeting in *Cambridge* on the 2d of the Fifth Month 1660, which, giving a just Idea of the Continuance of the Persecution there, and of the Christian Plainness and Simplicity of Address then used by them to Persons in the highest Authority, is as follows, viz.

“*To King CHARLES the Second, &c.*”

“WE are not a People forward to complain without great Cause, nor backward or unwilling to abide the good Pleasure of the Lord, in filling up the Measure of the Afflictions of Christ in our Bodies, while others are filling up the Measure of their Sins: But the Things that have lately happened to us at *Cambridge*, being altogether contrary to thy Declarations for Freedom, and Protection, to them that submit to thy Government and live in Peace, and much to the Dishonour of thy royal Engagement particularly made to us, thy Authority being pretended for the foulest Misdemeanours and highest Insolences, whereby thou mayst be abused as well as we, as declaring for one Thing and intending another, and much Evil may proceed if such Things are suffered: Therefore we would not hide it from the King, that Remedy may be had against such presumptuous Offenders, or at least the like prevented for the Time to come, that the Judgments of God, may, if possible, be diverted, that are ready to fall upon this Nation, without speedy Repentance and Reformation, for the Wrong done unto his Children and Servants, and thou mayst be preserved in the evil Day from the Wrath of the Lamb, who is making War with the Nations, and passing his dreadful Doom and Sentence upon the *Whore*, the *false Prophet*, and *Throne of the Beast*. Be it known unto thee, O King, that on the 2d Day of the fifth Month, as we were gathering together to a general Meeting, at the usual Place there, being our own hired House, a Tumult of Scholars, lewd Women, Townsmen, and Boys, gathered also about the Meeting-place like the Men of *Sodom*; not content with the former Injuries, Insolences, and Indignities, acted and expressed toward the Lamb's Followers about a Month before, neither ashamed nor afraid to do the same Things again, though the Heads and Governors both of Town

CAM-
BRIDGE-
SHIRE,
&c.
1658 and
1659.

Hard Case of
D. Motley.

1660.

A Letter to
K. Charles 2.
from Sufferers
at Cam-
bridge.

C A M-
BRIDGE-
SHIRE,
&c.
1660.

“ and University were made acquainted with the former Riot, but rather en-
“ couraged, in that their deserved Punishment was delayed: Some of them
“ prepared with Excess of Drink, that they might forget all Humanity, and
“ shew no Mercy, suffered none to pass thither without some Abuse or other,
“ stopping and thrusting us to and fro, throwing some down, or throwing
“ Dirt or Filth upon their Clothes, or in their Faces; and also beating some
“ back again, and not suffering them to go into the Meeting, mingling
“ much Scoffing, Reviling, and Threatning, with the rest of their Misusages;
“ and not ceasing there, tell upon us in our peaceable Meeting, as we were
“ waiting upon the Lord in Fear, striking at those they could reach,
“ flinging at others, and making an hideous Noise, with Scoffing, Laugh-
“ ing, Railing, Shouting, knocking, drumming upon the Boards, and some-
“ times throwing Wildfire and Gunpowder into the Meeting, to drown
“ the Sound of that which was spoken to us in the Name of the Lord, and
“ continually exercising themselves in one Act of Mischief or other, to make
“ a Disturbance, and weary us out of the Place; and when they saw they
“ could not do it by all those Means, they brake and battered down the
“ Doors and Walls next the Street with Bolt-hammers and other Engines, and
“ though we minded them of the King's Declaration, wherein he promised
“ Liberty to tender Consciences, at his first coming into *England*, and shewed
“ them the Unlawfulness of their Doings, assaulting, breaking in upon us,
“ and beating us in our own hired House; they called us Rebels, and pre-
“ tended the King's Order for what they did, and ran violently upon us, and
“ used us as if our Lives were all at their Mercies, haling, thrusting us out,
“ and striking both Men and Women (though not lifting up an Hand against
“ them) without any Pity or Respect to Age or other Condition, with Clubs,
“ great Splinters, and Pieces of the Doors and other Timber: And though
“ they that entred the House beat us with so much Cruelty, yet would not
“ their Outguard let us pass, till they also had satisfied their bloody Minds
“ in beating us again, so that very many of us were forely hurt and bruised.
“ Twenty two had their Blood shed; one so lamed that he was left behind
“ unable to walk abroad, and a Woman almost killed by their cruel Usage;
“ and besides this, some of us lost our Hats, and many of us had our Clothes
“ rent and much bespattered and daubed: And yet our Persecutors were not
“ satisfied with all this: When they had driven us from the House, and
“ cleared the Streets of us, they returned and quite battered down the rest of
“ the Walls and Bays on each Side of the Meeting-house, next two Entries,
“ and laid it all open to the Streets, then sought and hunted up and down the
“ Meeting-house again for us, and then they lighted on did very much abuse,
“ and assaulted an *Alderman's* House where some of us lodged, and beat the
“ Man of the House at his own Door, and departed not so long as it was
“ light. *And we whose Names are hereunto subscribed were Sufferers, and are*
“ *Witnesses that these Things are true before written.*

John Moone
William Pepper
John Ainsloe
John Parker
John Webb
Daniel Ward
George Clark
John Forster
Henry Marshall
John Adams

Jeremy Herne
Stephen Crisp
Gregory Tingy
Daniel Wallis
Benjamin Lunt
William Turner
Giles Fisher
William Witham
Philip Williamson
Jeremy Wood.

Josiah Cole
John Ostler
William Warbies
Stephen Hart
Thomas Harris
Thomas Payne
James Allen
John Pollard
Thomas Rouse

Beside the Subscribers, many others partook of the like Abuses, to which their
publick Meetings continually exposed them, for being conscious of their own
Innocence, they disdained those mean Arts and Subterfuges, under which Men
of

of evil Designs are wont to palliate their Treachery. Of these were *Venner* and his Accomplices, called the *Fifth Monarchy Men*, who in the Winter this Year made an Insurrection in the City of *London*, thereby incensing the Government, and raising a Storm of Persecution, wherein the peaceable *Quakers* greatly suffered, for in the Month called *January* this Year, *one Hundred and twenty six* of this People were committed to Prison for refusing to take the Oath of *Allegiance*, of which Refusal, their conscientious Obedience to the Precept of *Christ*, *Swear not at all*, was their only Motive. Of this Number were committed,

**C A M-
BRIDGE-
SHIRE.**
&c.
1660.

Imprisonment
of 126 for
refusing to
Swear.

To the Castle in <i>Cambridge</i> , being the County Goal	59 Persons
To the <i>Talbooth</i> Prison there	8
To <i>Wysbich</i> Goal	8
To <i>Ely</i> Goal	51

In all 126

The Usage they met with in *Cambridge* Goal is described in the following Letter, from one of the Prisoners there to a Friend in *London*, viz.

“ Dear Friend,
“ **M**Y dear Love to thee and all faithful Friends and Brethren, in Bonds
“ and out of Bonds: God Almighty keep you all faithful to the End:
“ This is to let thee know how it is, and hath been with us, in *Cambridge-*
“ *shire* and Town. They have been very cruel and violent towards all Friends,
“ sparing none, neither Widows nor fatherless Children, but haled all before
“ them called Justices, and they sent all to Prison: Many Widows about
“ sixty, some seventy Years old, and they left some of the Houses without
“ Inhabitant, and some little Children in the Streets, without any to look after
“ them for several Days: Such was the Cruelty that I was moved to write
“ a few Lines to them, a Copy whereof I have sent thee. They brought
“ in one Day about sixteen Women, a great Part of them Widows, and most
“ of them all very poor in the Outward, having but little but as they did earn
“ it by Day-labour, and they put them into the *Shire Hall*, where they were
“ kept all Night without any thing to lie upon, and these Women were kept
“ about four Days, and then the Goalor came and thrust them out, not having
“ any Order, and took from them what Bedding they had gotten in, and doth
“ keep it for Fees. We are already about thirty one Men in the County Goal,
“ and nine Men in the Town Goal, and sixteen Women.——Upon the Se-
“ cond-day last, the Men called Justices, sent the Clerk of the Peace to let
“ us know, that it was the King’s Pleasure to free us of the Oath, and if we
“ would enter into a Bond to live peaceably, and not to have any Meeting
“ or Conventicle for one Year’s Time, we might have our Liberty: To
“ which we answered by one Consent, *We could not for Conscience-sake, being*
“ *the Lord’s free Men*. And that Day I was moved to write a few Lines to
“ them called Justices, and sent it to them where they sat in *Cambridge*, a Copy
“ of it I have sent also. Friends here are finely kept, and well content to lie
“ upon Straw. Farewell.

A Letter de-
scribing the
Usage of the
Prisoners.

“ Thy dear Friend and Brother in the Bonds of the Gospel,

Cambridge County Goal, the 31st of
the Eleventh Month 1660.

“ **JOHN AINSLOE.**”

The Letters above-mentioned which *John Ainsloe* sent to the Justices, were as follows, viz.

CAM-
BRIDGE-
SHIRE.
8c.
1660.

1st Letter
from J. Ains-
loe to the
Justices.

The First LETTER.

“ Friends!

“ HAVE you forgotten there is a God, or do you think he hath forgot-
“ ten his People, or do you think to change his Decree, or turn his
“ Arm backward, that you thus act concerning his People, who seek not the
“ Harm of any, but the Good of all, neither can they be charged with
“ Wrong they have done to any, neither is Guilt found with them that Man
“ can charge upon them, but only concerning our God, because we cannot
“ deny our God, and swear contrary to his Command; therefore are we per-
“ secuted and imprisoned, and Widows Houses left desolate, and the Fatherless
“ left in the Streets; the like hath not been heard of in Ages past, nor did
“ this Nation ever meet with the like. O consider, the Lord sees and hath
“ Respect to the Widow and Fatherless, though you have none: *Friends*, this
“ is your Day, you should do well to use it well, lest God shorten it, and
“ when you cry, God will not answer, and when you need Pity, you find
“ none: Consider that the Breath of all Men is in the Power of the Lord,
“ and he can take it from them when it pleases him, and he will shorten the
“ Days of the Wicked, and bring Deliverance for his People. Therefore
“ consider, and take Warning, and leave off persecuting the innocent People
“ of God, lest God cast out you as he hath done them before you, who
“ were found guilty in that Thing, though not in so great a Measure. *Friends*,
“ consider that the Cry of the Poor and Fatherless, and the Desolation of the
“ Widow, enters into the Ears of the God of Heaven whom we serve,
“ and he will plead our Cause one Day, until which Time we wait with
“ Patience. Only it was upon my Spirit to lay these Things before you in
“ Love, that you might repent before your Measure be filled up, and then
“ no Place of Repentance will be found.

“ From a Lover of Peace and Righteousness, and the Welfare of all Men,

25th of the Eleventh
Month 1660.

“ JOHN AINSLOE.”

The Second LETTER.

“ Friends!

“ WE are bound with a stronger Bond than Man can bind, and this is the
“ Bond of Peace and Unity, with which Bond we are bound to God to
“ love him, and honour him above all, and our Neighbour as our selves, which
“ is to us of greater Price and Value, than any Tie Men can lay upon us, and
“ other Bonds cannot we enter into for Conscience-sake, but they who are
“ out of this Bond in the Strife and striving Nature one with another, of
“ them Bond may be required for their good Behaviour; but the Lord hath
“ redeemed us out of Strife, and we are come to witness him who hath taken
“ away the Occasion of War, and Plots, and evil Contrivances against any
“ Man; and we wish and desire from our Hearts the Welfare of all Men,
“ and their Prosperity in that which is good, and if any wish otherwise, or be
“ found acting otherwise, they are not of us: Bond may be required of them.
“ This being considered by you in the Fear of the Lord, you will see no
“ Reason why Bond should be required of us. This is written in Behalf of
“ my self and many Brethren now Prisoners of the Lord, for witnessing forth
“ a good Conscience towards God and towards Man, in Cambridge Town and
“ County Goals.

26th of the Eleventh
Month 1660.

“ JOHN AINSLOE.”

Thus in an innocent Plainness, and with Christian Courage, did this Sufferer
represent to the Magistrates, the Case of himself, and of his Friends in Prison,
and in so doing cleared his own Conscience, and left them the less excusable in
their

J. Ainsloe's
2d Letter to
the Justices.

their Proceedings. The Bonds which were required of this People, would have restrained them from their religious Meetings, and therefore were by them refused.

And in another Letter, some Time after, the said *John Ainsloe* says,

"SOME of us are kept in and not suffered to go out to ease our selves, but must do it where they lie, and others of us shut up in Dungeons and Holes, where they keep their Felons, and Witches, and Murderers, and so thronged, that they have but Room to stir one by another, and the Places do smell so nasty, that it were enough to poison any Creature, but that the Lord is our Preserver. — There is about twelve of us, poor labouring Men, that have nothing to live on but their own Labour, and they have been kept from it these eight Weeks, and had nothing but as others of us relieve them. Many of the Prisoners are sickly with Colds.

JOHN AINSLOE."

This hard and close Confinement was prejudicial to the Health of many of them, and occasioned the Death of *Joseph Holmes*, who together with his Father and Brother, were imprisoned.

In this Year *Edward Peachy* for a Demand of 6*s.* for Tithes, had his Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 5*l.*

George Thorowgood, for opening his Shop on the Day called *Christmasts-day*, was committed to Prison.

ANNO 1661.

The same *George Thorowgood*, for a Fine imposed on him for opening his Shop on an Holiday, so called, had his Goods taken away to the Value of 15*s.*

Mary Prior of *Over*, an aged and religious Widow, appearing at Sessions on a Summons for absenting herself from the publick Worship, was committed to Prison, where she fell sick and died, and was buried in *Cambridge Castle* Yard on the 5th of the Tenth Month this Year.

Stephen Blow and the Widow *Peachy*, for 7*s.* of them demanded for Tithes, had their Goods taken away to the Value of 10*l.* 13*s.*

In the same Year *James Tims*, and *Francis Gerrard*, were imprisoned in *Cambridge Castle*, on an Attachment out of the Exchequer, for not paying Tithes.

ANNO 1662.

Eleanor Harwood, *Anne Barbary*, *Thomas Thorowgood*, *Mercy Padley*, and *Blanch Sutton*, were imprisoned on an Indictment for Absence from the National Worship: They were kept five Days and five Nights without any Bed to lie on, though one of them had a young Child suckling at her Breast. For the same Cause *Robert Letchworth* was imprisoned, and afterwards detained on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo: And *Samuel Cater*, *Thomas Hawkes*, and *Samuel Fuller*, were by Order of Sessions committed to Prison, and continued there ten Weeks.

In the Second Month this Year, *Joseph Stevens* and *Edith Stevens*, both of *Over*, were committed to Prison for Tithes, and in the next Month *Thomas Goodwin* and *John Smith*, of *Hardwick*. *Samuel Fulbigg*, for a Demand of 7*s.* for Tithe, had his Goods taken to the Value of 2*l.* 10*s.*

Robert Letchworth, for refusing to Swear, had taken from him two Cows worth 7*l.*

ANNO 1663.

In this Year *Jeremy Rose* was arrested and imprisoned, for he knew not what, unless the Name *Quaker* had intitled him to such Usage.

CAMBRIDGE-SHIRE.

&c.

1660.

Reason for refusing Bonds. Extract of another Letter from J. Ainsloe.

Death of J. Holmes in Prison.

Distresses, &c.

1661.

Distress for opening Shop.

Death of M. Prior.

1662.

Imprisonments for Absence from the National Worship.

1663.

Causeless Imprisonment.

James

C A M-
BRIDGE-
SHIRE.
&c.
1663.

Distresses for
refusing to
bear Arms.
Distress of
2l. 10s. for
2d. demanded.
Imprisonments
for Tithes.
Death of T.
Richardson
in Prison.

Death of H.
Foster's Wife
and Child.

Several in-
dicted at the
Assizes.

Imprisonments.

Distresses.

James Tims, Robert Skeile, Richard Read, and John Adams, for refusing to bear Arms in the County Militia, had their Goods taken away to the Value of 19l. 13s. 4d.

Jeremy Rose, for 2d. demanded for Tithe of Grass worth but 18d. suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 2l. 10s.

In the same Year *Walter Crane* of *Horsted*, had been detained in Prison sixteen Months on a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo* for Tithes. And by like Writs for the same Cause were *Robert Steel* and *John Rufs* confined in *Wisbech Goal*.

On the 16th of the Second Month this Year, *Thomas Richardson*, *Francis Bugg*, and *John Ives*, taken by Constables at a Meeting, were committed to *Ely Goal*, and at the Assizes about five Months after, had the Oath of Allegiance tendred them, and for refusing it were remanded to Prison, where *Thomas Richardson*, above sixty Years of Age, through Want of Firing and other Necessaries, and lodging on Straw in Winter Time, was taken sick, and died on the 13th of the Eighth Month 1665, after two Years and an Half Confinement. The other two continued there six Months after his Death.

Henry Foster of *Sutton*, was taken from his own House by rude Soldiers, who with Sword and Pistol so terrified his Wife, big with Child, that she fell in Travel before her Time, and both Mother and Child died: He was sent to *Wisbech Goal* till the next Assizes, and then, together with *William Constance*, and *John Tye*, who were taken from a Meeting at *Chatteris*, was remanded to Prison, where they continued many Months.

In the Month called *November* this Year, *John Ainsloe*, *Robert Falkner*, and *John Hollowell*, after a Meeting at *Wellingham*, were taken by the Sheriff and sent to Prison till the next Assizes, four Months after, when a Bill of Indictment was found against them, for refusing to bear Common-prayer, and being at an unlawful Meeting: Upon which they were recommitted till another Assize.

Robert Skeile and *John Rose* were imprisoned on a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo*, for absenting from the National Worship.

William Wilkinson, summoned to the Sessions, and appearing with his Hat on, was sent to Prison.

In this Year were taken from several in this County for refusing to pay towards Rates for Repairing the parochial Worship-houses, Goods worth 2l. 13s. 8d.

1664.

ANNO 1664.

Distresses for
Tithes,

also for Meet-
ings,

and for refu-
sing to Swear.

Barbarous Ex-
pression of a
Justice.
His Death.
Imprisonments
on Processes
unknown.

In this Year were taken on Account of Tithes from *Stephen Blow*, for a Demand of 13s. Goods worth 2l. 6s. and from *Stephen Wilson* and *Richard Bond*, for about 40s. demanded, Goods worth 12l. 10s.

Benjamin Cranwell was this Year committed to *Cambridge Castle* for Tithes, where was also *James Blakely* the Elder, who lay there several Years.

George Thorowgood and *John Clark*, taken at a Meeting, were imprisoned, the Former ten Days, and the Latter two Months.

William Fison and *Jonas Scrooks*, for being at a Meeting, were sent to Goal by *William Holder* a Priest, and Justice of the Peace.

George Thorowgood, *William Williams*, and *John Lowder*, for refusing to Swear, were imprisoned by Order of Sessions fifteen Months: This *William Williams* was a very poor Man with many small Children: His Wife, hoping to get some Relief, applied to *William Fisher*, one of the County Justices, at *Wisbech*, representing the hard Condition of her numerous Family; to which he, more like a Canibal than a Christian, replied, *If she wanted Food, she might take her Children, fry them for Stakes, and eat them.* The said Justice died not long after in much Trouble and Horror of Mind.

Richard Steaton, *Reuben Stevens*, and *William Pepper*, were imprisoned on Writs *de Excommunicato capiendo*, though wholly ignorant of any Process in the Ecclesiastical Court against them.

Clement

Clement Crabb the Elder, and *William Hart*, were imprisoned at *Wisbech* eighteen Months, for Absence from the National Worship; as were *Edward Peachy*, *Daniel Peachy*, *Walter Peachy*, and *Stephen Blow*, fourteen Weeks, also *Edward Wright* and *John Webb* suffered Imprisonment some Time for the same Cause.

Several others had extravagant Seizures made on them for Nonconformity to the publick Worship, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
<i>John Dring</i> of Money, sixty three Beasts worth	183	0	0
<i>Ezekiel Palmer</i> , seven Cows worth	22	0	0
<i>Dorothy Motley</i> , an industrious Widow, having six Children, six Kine worth	20	0	0
<i>John Phipps</i> of <i>Meexel</i> , eight Beasts worth	32	0	0
<i>Richard Clarkson</i> of <i>Chatteris</i> , fourteen Kine worth	30	0	0
	287	0	0

CAM-
BRIDGE-
SHIRE,
&c.
1664.

Imprisonments
for Absence
from the pub-
lick Worship.
Extravagant
Seizures.

Some of the Cattle thus seized, were sold for half, and others for a quarter of their Value, few People caring to purchase them, the Innocence of the Sufferers affecting the Consciences of their Neighbours, who commiserating their Case, generally refused such Pennyworths.

ANNO 1665.

Joseph Nunn of *Littleport*, *John Dring*, *Thomas Paine*, *Anne Crabb*, and *Elizabeth Aspelon*, for not paying Tithes, had Goods and Cattle taken from them to the Value of 18*l.* And *William Boughton* for a Mortuary, suffered by Distress 2*l.* 10*s.*

Richard Bedmell, and *William Wadingham*, of *Doddington*, *Robert Smith*, *William Wilkinson*, and *Thomas Dorman* of *Littleport*, and *Henry Wadely*, for Demands on them of 14*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* for Tithes, had Cattle and other Goods taken from them to the Value of 92*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* When the Priest of *Littleport* made Seizure of *Dorman's* Goods, he was reproved for taking Tithe for Calves, where none was due, and put in Mind of the Apostle *Paul's* Example, who coveted no Man's Goods, &c. to which he answered, *I matter not what Christ said, nor what Paul said; I will have a Calf.* An Expression denoting, that he was more concerned for the Profits than the Duty of his Office.

1665.

Distresses for
Tithes, &c.

Saying of a
covetous
Priest.

ANNO 1666.

John Wayman and *Thomas Wayman*, both of *Over*, for a Demand of 5*s.* for Tithe, were imprisoned in *Cambridge Castle* at the Suit of *Dudley Pope* Improprator.

At *Ely* Affizes in the Month called *April* this Year, several who had been long in Prison at *Wisbech* for refusing the Oath of Allegiance, were set at Liberty.

1666.

ANNO 1667.

Robert Rayment, *William Wutham*, *Thomas Paine*, and *Elizabeth Aspelon*, were imprisoned for Absence from the National Worship.

William Wilkinson, fined 60*l.* for Meeting, died a Prisoner after two Years Confinement.

1667.

Death of W.
Wilkinson.

ANNO 1668.

Francis Emerson was imprisoned in *Cambridge Castle* for Tithes at the Suit of *John Philips* and *Joseph Kettle*: *Edward Peachy* and *John Blow* were also imprisoned there on an Attachment for Tithes.

1668.

Imprison-
ments.

CAM-
BRIDGE-
SHIRE,

&c.
1669.

Distresses and
Imprison-
ments.

1670.

Great Spoil by
the Conven-
ticle Act.

At Ely.

ANNO 1669.

Richard Cope, for refusing to bear Arms, suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 30 s.

In the same Year, *John Adams*, *Thomas Gray*, *William Wells*, *William Cross*, *Edward Fuller*, *William Nix*, and *Philip Williamson*, were sent to Prison for not paying Tithes, and continued there several Years.

ANNO 1670.

By an Act of Parliament made this Year against Conventicles, whereby Informers were encouraged with Part of the Fines, great Spoil of Goods was made in this County and Island, viz.

At *Ely* were taken from *Francis Bugg*, for being at several Meetings, Goods worth 42 l. 18 s. 4 d. And from several other Inhabitants there, to the Value of 47 l. 4 s. 2 d.

Among these was *George Thorowgood*, a poor Man, who having all his Household Goods, Bed and Bedclothes taken from him, was forced to lodge on Straw; after which, when sick, his Prosecutors took away his Sheets and Shirt. Several, who, being shut out of their Meeting-place, met in the Street were forely beaten, and *Stephen Clarkson* knockt down by a Blow, which he complained of till his Death about five Months after.

At *Chatteris* and *Sutton* in the Isle of *Ely*, were taken from about twenty Persons, Goods to the Value of 61 l. 6 s. 8 d.

Richard Cope and *Robert Stanton*, Constables, refusing to serve one of the Warrants for these Distresses, were fined 5 l. each, and for Non-payment, *Cope* had taken from him four Cows worth 9 l. and *Stanton* four Cows worth 11 l.

At *Linton* were taken from several Persons, Goods worth 59 l. 3 s. 9 d.

At *Cambridge*, for Meetings held there, Goods worth 54 l. 4 s. 6 d. One *William Brasier*, at whose House some of those Meetings were, had all his Goods taken away, even his working Tools, and Bedding, so that he was constrained to lie on the Boards. *Edward Cooke* had the Bedding for himself and Family taken away, with his Children's Cradle, so that the poor Babes contracted Sickness by lodging on Straw, and one of them died. Also *Nicholas Frost*, for permitting a silent Meeting in his House, suffered the Loss of all his Goods.

At *Littleport* in the Isle of *Ely*, were taken from several Persons, Goods to the Value of 54 l. 18 s. 8 d. Among which is the Case of *Samuel Cater*, who was fined 25 l. for Preaching in *Norfolk*, from whence the Magistrates there sent a Warrant to the Justices of *Ely*, where he dwelt, and his Goods and Timber were taken by Distress before he came Home.

From *John Adams* of *Hadenham*, then a Prisoner, for Meetings at his House, were taken Goods worth 49 l. 8 s. 4 d. And from *Edward Fuller* to the Value of 35 l. 2 s. 4 d. One *Woodward*, a Member of the Church of *England*, refusing to assist in carrying those Goods, was forced to pay 5 l. Fine; and wanting but 2 d. of that Sum, the Justice would not abate it. This *Woodward*, afterward on his Death-bed, expressed much Satisfaction in so suffering.

At *Over*, several, who met there, had their Cattle and Goods distrained to the Value of 156 l. 6 s. 6 d. *John Ansloe*, fined 20 l. for Preaching there, had nine Cows taken worth 30 l. which when the Parish Officers refused to sell below their Value, Justice *Hatton*, who imposed the Fine, sold to his own Clerk and the Informer for 12 l. Some other of the Cattle were bought by *Sackvil Wade* Lord of the Manour of *Over*, who gave this Reason for buying them, viz. "That he, seeing rascally Fellows purchase those Goods at low Rates, had bought them with Intention to let the Owners have them again at the same Price:" But he was ignorant that the Owners would not buy their own Goods again, though never so cheap. The Purchasers were generally Men

Men of little Reputation, such as inferior Constables, and Informers, one of whom, *Edward Wells*, a Cobler of *Cambridge*, by buying such Bargains became a Grazier.

For Meetings at *Roydon* were taken Goods worth 47*l.* 12*s.* One of the Justices who granted Warrants for these Distresses was *James Wilmot*, a keen Man for such Service, who bid the Officers leave the Sufferers neither Dish nor Spoon, nor Seat to sit on. By such Direction they thought themselves warranted in Stripping *William Wubam* of the Coat from his Back, and telling him, that next Time they would send him home naked: Also in taking from the Wife of *Philip Williamson*, then imprisoned for his Religion, the Firing provided for herself and Children; and from *Edward Mayes* and his Wife, both very aged, their Bed and Bedclothes; and from the Widow *Asbwell*, above eighty Years of Age, the Bed she lay on.

At *Oakington*, *Great Abington*, *Balsbam*, *Fulliborne*, and *Hogington*, they made Distress of Cattle and Goods to the Value of 126*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* In which Distress they shewed no Compassion, taking from *Susanna Gunn*, a poor industrious Woman, even the Bread-Corn she had gleaned.

At *Swansey* they took from *Nicholas Walker* and *John Norris*, Goods worth 22*l.*

In this Year *Joseph Townsend* having a Booth at *Sturbridge Fair* with Goods to sell, went to visit his Mother in *Cambridge*; an Informer seeing him go in, suspected a Meeting there, and persuaded three Doctors of the University, Justices of the Peace, to come thither from their Place of publick Worship; who coming, found only three Persons beside the Family: Vext at the Disappointment, they charged a Constable with *Joseph Townsend*, and in the Evening tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing it committed him to Goal. When there, upon Information of his being at a Meeting in the Forenoon of the same Day, they fined him, and ordered Goods to be taken out of his Booth to the Value of 10*l.* They kept him close Prisoner there during the Fair, to his very great Detriment, though several of his Chapmen offered 1000*l.* Bail for his Liberty; and his Wife, who came from *Northamptonshire* to take Care of his Goods, offered herself to lie in Prison in his stead.

Edward Smith of *Linton*, and *John Bing* of *Over*, were imprisoned for refusing to Swear.

For a Meeting at *Cambridge* on the 27th of the Ninth Month this Year, the whole of the Fines were laid on *Elizabeth Underwood* of *Chesterton*, from whom, she then dwelling with her Son, they took all the Goods they could find of hers.

Violent, about this Time, were the Proceedings of *Edward Patrick* a Justice of the Peace, who with one *Rickman* an Apparitor, came to the Meeting at *Littleport*, took the Names of those who were met, turned them out by Violence, took in their own Horses, made a Fire, and sat down drinking and carousing. When they went away they ordered the Doors to be lockt up. Then charging several Persons to attend them, they went to the Burying Ground purchased by the said People, and made Use of by them for twelve Years past; where the Justice with his own Hands pulled down the Pales, while his drunken Attendants brake them in Pieces, digged up the Posts, and levelled the Fence with the Ground.

At another Meeting the same Persons pulled down *Samuel Cater* preaching, and struck him twice: And while he was Praying, pulled him off his Knees by the Nose. They knocked down *Stephen Clarkson*, so that he complained of the Blow till he died about five Months after.

On the 29th of the same Month they repeated their Insults, beating and abusing many, and throwing some of their Hats into the Dirt. They also took away the Forms of the Meeting-house.

In this Year *Edward Redmel* and *William Wadingham*, both of *Doddington*, were imprisoned in *Wisbech Goal* for Tithes.

In this Year also *Henry Tims*, *George Read*, and *John Pigg*, suffered eight Months Imprisonment for refusing to bear Arms in the County Militia.

CAM-
BRIDGE-
SHIRE,
&c.
1676.

Severity of
Justice.

Hard Distres-
ses.

Case of J.
Townsend
a Trader at
Sturbridge
Fair.

Distress for
Meeting.

Wicked Pro-
ceedings of
Justice Pa-
trick.

CAM-
BRIDGE-
SHIRE,

&c.

1671.

Violence of
Justice Patrick.

ANNO 1671.

Ezra Purcas was committed to Prison for refusing to pay 3s. demanded of him for *Smoke-penny*, *Garden-penny*, and *Easter-Offerings*.

In the Month called *April* this Year, the aforementioned Justice Patrick in much Fury entered a Meeting at *Littleport*, violently beating both Old and Young, till he broke his Staff, and then taking another out of a Warden's Hand repeated his Blows, and throwing several Women down in the Street, said, *If he killed them he could answer it*. Then he sent two young Men to *Bridewell*, where they were cruelly whipt, and detained till Sessions.

1672.

Release of
Prisoners.

ANNO 1672.

In this Year many of this People under Confinement, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, were discharged by the King's Letters patent, of whom were released out of *Cambridge Castle*, *Edward Smith*, *John Bing*, *William Wubam*, *Edward Sutton*, *Robert Matthews*, *Giles Pemberton*, *Philip Williamson*, *Thomas Rivers*, *Francis Holcroft*, and *Jacob Rogers*.

In the same Year died, Prisoners for Tithes, *Reuben Stevens* and *Bennet Cranfwell*, both of *Over*, and *Thomas Gray* of *Hadenham*.

1673.

Distresses for
Meeting.

ANNO 1673.

George Taylor of *Chesterton*, *John Smith* of *Over*, *John Ainsloe*, and *John Norris*, for being at a Meeting held in the House of the said *John Norris* at *Wellingham*, suffered Distress of their Goods and Cattle to the Value of 37*l.* 16*s.* Also for a Meeting at *Mildenhall*, were taken from *Francis Bugg* and *John Burges*, Goods worth 32*l.* 10*s.*

1674.

Grievous Oppression of a
poor Man.

ANNO 1674.

For Meetings held at *Cambridge*, Seizures were made on divers Persons to the Amount of 11*l.* Of these was *William Brazier*, a poor Shoemaker, who, after Distress of his Household Goods, was spoiled of his working Tools, his wearing Apparel, and his Wood for firing: And when reduced to lodge on Straw, they took from under him the Sheets which covered that Straw: Nevertheless his Zeal and Constancy continued immovable.

John Elgar of *Papworth*, for a Meeting at *Eltistey*, had Cattle taken from him worth 6*l.* 10*s.*

Death of 4
Persons in
Prison.

In this Year *John Adams* of *Hadenham*, died a Prisoner for Tithes; as did also *John Feast* of *Sutton*, *John Beadles* of *Chatteris*, and *Peter Hill* of the same.

1675.

Distresses for
Tithes,and for
Meetings.

ANNO 1675.

John Prime of *Wilbrum*, at the Suit of *Thomas Wubam* a Priest, had his Household Goods, and other Things taken by Distress to the Value of 74*l.* for a Demand of three Years Tithe for a Farm of but 22*l.* per Annum Rent.

In this Year several Persons, who had met together at the House of *Matthew Beesley* of *Oakington*, suffered by Distress made on their Goods and Chattels to the Value of 61*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* And *Henry Bostock* for being at a Meeting at *Wellingham*, had Malt taken from him worth 6*l.* 10*s.*

Hard Case of
G. Friend
and his Family.

George Friend, informed against by *Edward Swanton* a Priest, for being at a Meeting at *Lakenbeath*, had all his Goods taken from him, and himself with his Wife and four or five small Children, were obliged to lodge on Straw in the Cold of Winter. The Goods taken were carried to the informing Priest's House.

ANNO

ANNO 1676.

CAM-
BRIDGE-
SHIRE,
&c.
1676.

Gabriel Walker of Swaffham-Bulbeck, was committed to Cambridge Castle on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, at the Suit of Malin Sawyerby Priest, for Easter-Offerings and Tithes of half a Rood of Saffron-Ground. He was confined in a close Dungeon, where, for want of Air in Summer, and Fire in Winter, his Life was endangered. He was continued in this hard Imprisonment near four Years after.

Cruel Confinement of G. Walker.

James Houghton of Downham, was imprisoned in the Isle of Ely, on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, where he lay above four Years, for refusing to pay 16d. toward the Repairs of the Parish Worship-house. Also Henry Harlow, Nicholas Frost, Thomas Edmundson, and Henry James, for like Demands of 3s. 6d. each, were detained Prisoners at Cambridge above six Years.

Tedious Imprisonments.

In this Year was levied by Exchequer Process, for Absence from the National Worship, whereby two Thirds of their Estates were forfeited to the King on old Statutes made against Popish Recusants,

From John Prime of Wilbrun, Goods worth	88	0	2
Richard Webb of Westwickham, to the Value of	26	10	0
	38	10	3

Distress by Exchequer Process.

ANNO 1677.

1677.

By like Processes for the same Cause, were taken from the said Richard Webb, and John Prime, Henry Bostock of Quay, John Harvey of Linton, Grocer, and Edward Smith of the same, Goods to the Value of 65l. 17 6d. And from John Smith and George Nash, both of Over, Goods worth 97l. 11s. 7d. The selfish View of some Officers, in executing such Processes, is shewn by the Answer which Isaac Smith, an under Sheriff, gave when he was told that it would be of less Detriment to the Sufferers to take live Cattle than Household Goods, his Reply was, that he had more Need of Household Stuff, being shortly to go and keep House himself. This was proved to a Committee of Parliament.

More Distresses by Process out of the Exchequer.

ANNO 1678.

1678.

Thomas Amey of Great Abington, imprisoned in Cambridge Castle, on a Writ de Excommunicato Capiendo, at the Suit of John Boulton, Vicar, for a Claim of Oblations and Tithe of Wild Pigeons, was remaining under that Confinement a Year and an Half after.

Long Imprisonment for trivial Claims.

ANNO 1679.

1679.

At Chatteris in the Isle of Ely, exorbitant Seizures of Cattle were made for small Tithes, at the Suit of William Strong Vicar, viz.

Demanded				Cattle taken			
l.	s.	d.		l.	s.	d.	
For	4	0	0	of Francis Cooper, to the Value of	40	0	0
	0	10	0	of Ellis Basford	7	10	0
	1	1	0	of Edward Claxon	22	0	0
	<hr/>				<hr/>		
	5	11	0		69	10	0

Excessive Seizures.

The same Vicar took from John Worth, for a Claim of Tithes, Cattle worth 13l. 10s. and for the same Tithes detained him also in Prison twenty Months.

CAM-
BRIDGE-
SHIRE,

&c.

1679.

Settles by
Exchequer
Process.

In this and the next preceding Year were taken by *Exchequer* Process for Absence from the National Worship, from

	l.	s.	d.
<i>Richard Pettit</i> of <i>Stow cum Quy</i> , Wheelwright, ten Cows worth	22	0	0
<i>Henry Bostock</i> of <i>Quy</i> , a Cow and an Horse worth	5	10	0
<i>John Prime</i> of <i>Wilbrum</i> , fourteen Cows worth	32	15	6
<i>Robert Salmon</i> of <i>Shudicamps</i> , and his Widow, to the Value of	7	6	8
<i>John Smith</i> of <i>Over</i> , a Mare and a Gelding worth	16	0	0
<i>Richard Webb</i> of <i>West-Wickham</i> , seven Horses,	52	0	0
and other Things, worth	5	15	6
<i>Edward Smith</i> of <i>Linton</i> , and <i>Jacob Baker</i> of <i>West-Wooton</i> , Goods worth	141	7	8

1680.

ANNO 1680.

Joseph Endon of *Bosley*, for 30s. demanded for Tithes, had two Cows taken from him worth 7l.

1682.

ANNO 1682.

Distresses, &c.

Stephen Blows, for a Meeting in his House at *Soham* in the Isle of *Ely*, had taken from him eight Cows worth 26l. 15s. and several others also had Goods taken away for the same Meeting worth 10l. 10s.

Taken by *Exchequer* Process, for Absence from the National Worship, from *Nicholas Sparks* of *Linton*, Goods worth 10l. 12s.

For the same Cause were committed to *Cambridge Castle*, *Nicholas Walker*, *John Holmes*, *George Hanscomb*, and *Robert Hanscomb*, all of *Swansey*; also *Robert Adams*, and *William Page* of *Over*.

1683.

ANNO 1683.

Imprisonments
and Distresses
for several
Causes.

Edmund Rose of *Chatteris*, was imprisoned for Tithes at the Suit of *William Strong* Vicar.

Nine Persons, convicted for a Meeting at *Littleport*, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 11l. 16s. 6d. And sixteen others, for refusing the Oath of Allegiance, tendered them at the Quarter Sessions, were committed to Prison; two of whom, *Samuel Fullbegg*, and *John Toppin*, soon fell sick and died Prisoners.

For Absence from the National Worship, were taken from *Nicholas Spark* of *Linton*, Goods worth 6l. 4s. and from *John Webb* of *Balsbam*, to the Value of 9l. 14s.

And for the same Cause were committed to Prison, *Vincent Wayman* of *Cottenham*, *Edward Peachy*, *Thomas Blows*, and *Stephen Blows*, all of *Soham*; also *Gabriel Walker* of *Swaffham-Bulbeck*.

1684.

ANNO 1684.

Taken for Tithes from *Jeremiah Rose* of *Chatteris*, for 20s. demanded, two Cows worth 6l. and from *Philip Eldin* of *Marsh*, for 7l. Demand, a Mare, Colt, and sixty Sheep, worth 35l.

W. Page died
a Prisoner.

William Brasier of *Cambridge*, was committed to Prison on a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*. And in this Year *William Page* died a Prisoner.

1685.

ANNO 1685.

3 Persons im-
prisoned.

John Langran of *Taft*, and *Thomas Hanscomb* and *Richard Masters* of *Swansey*, were committed to Prison for Absence from the National Worship.

ANNO

ANNO 1686.

John Prime was imprisoned for Tithes in *Cambridge Castle*. In this Year King *James the Second* issued a Proclamation for releasing out of Prison such as were detained either on Writs *de Excommunicato capiendo*, or by *Exchequer* Process, or otherwise at the King's Suit: By which Means were discharged fourteen or fifteen of the Persons beforementioned, together with *Samuel Cater*, *Robert Lettworth*, *Robert Bead*, *William Cross*, and *Robert Skeele*.

CAM-
BRIDGE-
SHIRE,
&c.
1686.

J. Prime.
K. James's
Proclamation.

ANNO 1699.

Henry Slater of *Elme* in the Isle of *Ely*, prosecuted for 10 s. Tithe at the Suit of *Charles Dimock* Priest, had taken from him a Cow and Mare worth 4 l. 5 s. In the same Year *Henry Wadlow*, *John Goom*, and *Clement Pain*, had their Corn taken for Tithes to the Value of 6 l. 14 s.

1699.

Distresses for
Tithes.

C H E S H I R E.

ANNO 1653.

ONE of the earliest Sufferers in this County was *Richard Hitchcock*, who after the Conclusion of the publick Worship at *Chester*, thought it his Duty to utter a Christian Exhortation to the People: For this innocent Freedom the Mayor sent him to Prison, strictly ordering the Goaler to lay him in Irons in a dark Place called *Dead Man's Room*, where condemned Persons were usually put; there was he kept above thirteen Weeks from his Wife and many Children, till the Stench and Nastiness of the Dungeon had well nigh suffocated him; when *Richard Minshall*, a Servant of the Protector, commiserating his Case, by an *Habeas Corpus* brought him before a Judge at the General Sessions, who declared his Imprisonment to be illegal, and set him at Liberty.

CHESHIRE.
1653.

Suffering of
R. Hitch-
cock.

For the like Offence *Anne Fara* was grievously abused by the People, and afterward by the Mayor committed to Prison; as was *Thomas Yarwood* for a Cause of the like Nature. The same Mayor sent *Richard Hubbertorn* to Goal, and detained him there eight Days upon a bare Information of his visiting *John Lawson* then in Prison. With equal Rigour were *Elizabeth Levens* and *Jane Waugh* treated by another Justice of the Peace, who committed them to Goal, where they lay five Weeks in a nasty stinking Place, for no other Reason than that they were passing the Street toward the Prison with an Intention to visit their Friends there: An Instance clearly shewing that superstitious Zeal clothed with Power, can, by a perverse Construction, form a criminal Accusation, from the innocent Practise of a plain Christian Duty.

Some impri-
soned for vi-
siting their
Friends in
Prison.

Thomas Holme for Preaching at a Meeting in *Chester*, suffered six Weeks Imprisonment under a wicked drunken Goaler, who grievously abused and beat him.

Imprisonments
for Meeting.

Richard Hitchcock and *Edward Morgan*, for being at the same Meeting, were imprisoned, the former fifteen Weeks, and the latter nine.

John

CHESHIRE.
1653.

Imprisonments
for Meeting,
and for refu-
sing to Swear.

1654.

Imprisonment
For opposing
publick
Preachers.

A Description
of a Place
called Little
Ease, in
Chester, in
which

R. Scoftroph.

T. Yarwood,

and W. Simp-
son were tor-
tured.

1656.

Imprisonments
for sundry
Causes.

John Wortbington, Thomas Janney, Thomas Potts, Richard Burgeſs, Robert Milner, and Edward Alcock, ſuffered Diſtreſs of Goods to the Value of 11 l. 10 s. for going but two Miles from their Habitations to a Meeting.

Thomas Liveſey, for refuſing to Swear, ſuffered ſix Weeks and five Days Im- priſonment, beſide the Value of 50 s. by Diſtreſs.

ANNO 1654.

Edward Ogden, preſuming to diſcourſe, after Sermon, with a publick Preacher, concerning his Doctrine, was pulled out of the Place by his Hair; and by the Mayor's Order imprifoned nine Weeks. And Mary Endon, for the ſame Cauſe, ſuffered four Days Imprifonment.

There was at this Time in Cheſter, a Place called Little Eaſe, deviſed for Torture, of which we find the following Deſcription: "It was an Hole hewed out in a Rock, the Breadth and Croſs from Side to Side was ſeventeen Inches, " from the Back to the Inſide of the great Door at the Top, ſeven Inches, at " the Shoulders eight Inches, at the Breſt nine Inches and an Half; from the " Top to the Bottom one Yard and an Half, with a Device to leſſen the " Heighth, as they are minded to torment the Perſon put in, by Draw- " boards, which ſhoot over the two Sides to a Yard Heighth, or thereabout." In this Place they tormented many of thoſe who were induced with Chriſtian Courage to reprove the Vices either of Miniſters, Magiſtrates, or People, for Inſtance,

Richard Scoftroph, for Preaching Repentance in the Streets, was put into Little Eaſe till next Day, and then by the Mayor ſent to Bridewell.

Thomas Yarwood, who, as the Mayor and Aldermen were going to a cuſtomary Feaſt, with Muſick playing before them, dared to remind them, wherein real Chriſtianity ſtood, viz. In true Holineſs and the Fear of the Lord, was ſent to Little Eaſe, and kept there five Hours, by which he, being but a weak ſickly Man, was much bruifed and hurt.

William Simpson, attempting in Chriſtian Love to exhort the People, after their publick Preacher had ended his Sermon, was firſt put in the Stocks, and afterward kept in Little Eaſe nine Hours: When, on the next Day, he com- plained to the Mayor of his cruel Uſage, he was ſent again to the ſame Place, after that the Sheriff, in the Mayor's Preſence, had ſtruck him in the Face, ſo that he bled very much.

ANNO 1656.

Richard Sale, a Man zealouſly concerned to teſtify againſt the Vices and Corruptions of thoſe Times, ſuffered thirty three Weeks Imprifonment, being confined, even in the Depth of Winter, in a cold open Room without any Firing.

For the like Cauſes, John Lawſon, John Badely, and Henry Murray, ſuf- fered four and twenty Weeks Imprifonment; and Sarah Adgate and Margaret Wood, about four Weeks.

Richard Cubham, Benjamin Bolton, and Peter Lethard, for Reading a Paper in the Grave Yard, ſuffered Diſtreſs of Goods to the Value of 2 l. 5 s. beſide eight Weeks Imprifonment.

John Milner and Thomas Hill, for reading a Declaration againſt Tithes in the Town of Tarvin, were ſtoned, and barbarouſly abuſed by a Rabble animated by the Pariſh Prieſt.

Edward Morgan a Citizen of Cheſter, complaining to the Mayor againſt a Servant who had robbed him, but refuſing to Swear, the Mayor diſcharged the Thief, and ſent Edward himſelf to Priſon, where he was detained eleven Weeks, and then privately releaſed. During his Confinement he ſent a Letter to the Mayor by one Deborah Madocks, who carried it to him in the Penthouſe, a Place in Cheſter, where the Magiſtrates uſed to meet; but ſhe coming in a manner

manner he called irreverent, he ordered a Constable to put her into *Little Ease*, where she was kept about four Hours.

CHESHIRE.
1656.

ANNO 1657.

1657.

In this and the next preceding Year, *Richard Sale* afore said, an undaunted Reprover of Vice without Respect of Persons, was several Times put into *Little Ease* for three, four, five, and eight Hours together; and he, being corpulent, could not be put into that narrow Hole without much Violence, four Men having much ado to thrust him in, in doing which they crushed him, till the Blood gushed out of his Mouth and Nose: By this frequent Barbarity his Health was impaired, and his Body and Legs so swelled, that he languished about two Months after the Time they last put him in, and then died in the Month called *August* 1657, imputing the Cause of his Death to the Cruelty of his Persecutors.

R. Sale cruelly used.

His Death.

Edward Morgan, complaining to the Mayor against a drunken Fellow, who had grossly abused him, was sent to *Little Ease* for not pulling off his Hat when he made that Complaint, and the Drunkard went unpunished.

E. Morgan sent to Little Ease.

Anthony Hutchins, having taken an Account of the Sufferings of the People called *Quakers* in *Chester*, sent a Manuscript Copy thereof to the Mayor, who sent the Bearer of it to *Little Ease*: About ten Days after *Anthony* was sent for by Constables to appear before the Mayor, Recorder, and another Justice of the Peace, who, having the Copy of the Book, examined him concerning it: The Substance of which Examination, conveying a just Idea of courageous Innocence, is as follows, viz.

Examination of A. Hutchings.

Mayor. Have you seen this Book?

Hutchins. Yes.

Mayor. Did you write your Name here at the End of it?

Hutchins. No: But I got it transcribed after a Copy of my own Writing.

Mayor. Do you own it?

Hutchins. I do.

Mayor. Have you read it over?

Hutchins. I have.

Then the Mayor gave him many Threats.

Hutchins. Who commit the greater Evil, they that act cruelty, or they that write down Cruelty acted by others?

Recorder. Who must judge of that?

Hutchins. Let that of God in your own Consciences judge who commit the greater Offence.

Recorder. Many an one has had his Ears nailed to the Pillory for a less Offence.

Hutchins. If he deserve to have his Ears nailed to the Pillory that writ these Things down, what do they deserve that acted them?

Then they again gave him many threatening Words.

Hutchins. I desire no Favour of you, let me have a fair Plea before a Court, and if I have transgressed the Law, I am willing to suffer for it: But, I think, it is not equal you should be Judges in your own Case.

A Justice. We will not, twelve Men shall judge of it.

Recorder. Twenty four Men shall judge of it.

Mayor. You are a railing Fellow.

Hutchins. Turning to the People: Did any of you hear me rail?

Mayor. You do in the Book.

Hutchins. If I should say such Words to you as *Paul* did to *Elymas*, you would say I railed, though Truth may be written, and Names and Titles may be given to Men answerable to their Actions, as *Paul* called *Elymas* a Child of the Devil, and an Enemy of all Righteousness: But I have used no such Words to you.

Recorder. Paul might say so to *Elymas*, who was a Sorcerer.

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Cc

Hutchins.

CHESHIRE.

1657.

Hutchins. All the Priests in England, which preach for Hire, and divine for Money, are Sorcerers, for thereby the right Ways of the Lord come to be perverted.

Recorder. You must not judge them.

Hutchins. Their Practice judges them.

After this he expostulated with them about the Hole in the Rock, called Little Ease, saying,

Where did you ever read of such a Prison as that, which bruised Men's Bodies in such a cruel manner: The Law has so much Respect to Men, though Transgressors, as to provide large Prisons to secure their Bodies in, and not such Holes as those to press and bruise them. I can see Drunkards pass up and down the Street, but hear of none put into that Place.

Mayor. If you see such Things, you might come and inform me, and see if I did not punish them.

Hutchins. And I might get the same Reward as Edward Morgan got, who complained to thee of a Man that was drunk and abused him, and thou causedst him to be put into Little Ease, and sufferedst the Drunkard to pass unpunished.

His Examination being over, and he refusing to find Sureties for his Appearance at the Quarter Sessions, was committed to Goal for writing a Libel, wherein, as they said, he had reproached the Magistrates and Ministers of Chester. After thirty two Days Imprisonment, the General Sessions for the County coming on, he was removed by Habeas Corpus, and his Cause brought before the Judges, who set him at Liberty, although he, before them, asserted the Truth of all he had written, which he afterward published in Print, under the Title of *A Declaration of the Sufferings of the Saints in Chester*, from which Book several of the Passages herein were extracted.

1658.

Many Distresses

ANNO 1658.

In this Year several Persons for Demands of 4*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* for repairing the publick Worship-houses, and for Wages of the Parish Clerk, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 14*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* One of whom, James Brown, for a Claim of 2*s.* had 50*s.* in Value taken from him. Also in this and the preceding Year, fundry Persons in this County, for Demands of Tithes amounting to 27*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* 4*d.* had Goods taken from them worth 111*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*

Imprisonments.

Mary Milner was imprisoned seven Weeks, and Thomas Hill fourteen Weeks, for Tithes, although their Goods had been taken for the same Demands to three Times their Value.

1660.

Imprisonment of 112 for refusing to Swear.

ANNO 1660.

In the Month of October this Year, were Prisoners in the County Goal at Chester, twenty of the People called Quakers, committed for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance; and before the End of the Month called January, ninety two others of them for the same Cause were also sent thither. Beside these, five others were committed to the North Gate at Chester, and five others to the Custody of the City Marshal: These last, refusing to comply with the Marshal's illegal Claim of 42*s.* per Week for the Guards he set over them, were for some Time so close confined, that no Person whatsoever was suffered to come near them, except a wicked Fellow employed on purpose to shut out others.

Abuses of several by a pretended Authority.

About this Time one John Turpin, a Person only authorized to license Musicians, pretended a Commission which he made use of to abuse honest Men. He caused Hugh Crosby, William Gibson, and Thomas Eaton, to be hurried by rude wicked Fellows from Barterton to Chester, and back again, and afterward to Nantwich, in a very hot Summer's Day, as if on purpose to afflict and tire them: For it doth not appear, that he was able to accomplish his Design of imprisoning them.

ANNO

ANNO 1662.

CHESHIRE.
1662.29 Indicted at
the Quarter
Sessions.

In the Month called January 1662, twenty nine of this People were indicted at the Quarter Sessions in Chester, for being at an unlawful Assembly, and were all imprisoned by Warrants issued in the following Form, viz.

“ Cheshire /s.

“ Carolus Secundus Dei Gratia, Angliæ, &c.

“ To the Constables of Clutterwick.

Form of War-
rants for im-
prisonments.

“ **W**HEREAS at the General Sessions of the Peace held at Chester in
“ the Castle of Chester, the Day of the Date hereof, Robert Taylor of
“ Clutterwick aforesaid, Yeoman, together with several other Persons, being
“ above the Number of five, and also above the Age of sixteen Years, were
“ indicted for unlawfully assembling together at the House of John Dove in
“ Coddington within the County aforesaid, the 19th Day of November last
“ past, upon Pretence of joining together in religious Worship of God, con-
“ trary to an Act of this present Parliament in that Case made and provided,
“ whereupon he appeared and pleaded not guilty; which Issue being after-
“ wards tried by twelve good and lawful Men of the County aforesaid, he
“ was found guilty. Whereupon our Justices thought good to impose a Fine
“ of 2*l.* 10*s.* on him the said Robert Taylor. We therefore command you,
“ and either of you, after six Days next after the Date hereof, to levy by
“ Distress or otherwise, of the Goods and Chattels of him the said Robert Tay-
“ lor, the respective Sum of 2*l.* 10*s.* and the same so had and gathered forth-
“ with to pay unto the Clerk of the Peace of this County, at his Office in
“ Namptwich, to be employed as the said Act directs; and for want of such
“ Distress you are to apprehend him the said Robert Taylor so failing, and carry
“ him to the House of Correction, there to remain for the Space of three
“ Months, and see that you certify your Doings unto the Clerk of the Peace
“ at his Office aforesaid, within three Weeks after the Receipt hereof, upon
“ Peril that may fall thereon. Test. Rich. Grosvenor, Petro Leicester,
“ Thomâ Manwaring Baronetto, & alijs locis Justiciaris apud Cestriam predictâ,
“ 13^o Jan. Anno regni Caroli secundi 14^o 1662.

“ HUMPHRY MILTON.”

ANNO 1663.

1663.

Prosecution of
R. Smith in
the Bishop's
Court for
practising
Physick.

Richard Smith, a Practitioner of Physick and Chirurgery in the City of Chester, was cited into the Bishop's Court, for practising without a License, which they would not grant him. After several Citations, notwithstanding his Appearance thereto, they proceeded against him under Pretence of Contempt of the Court, to an Excommunication, in Consequence of which, on the 13th Day of the Month called August this Year, he was committed to the City Prison, on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, where he was detained under close Confinement more than five Years, illegally, as the Lawyers informed him, because the Writ had not been returned into the Court of King's Bench, as by Law it ought to have been.

John Baddely of Malpas, by an Order from the Lord Cholmondley, was taken from his own House by Soldiers, and carried to Prison, where he was detained several Months without any Examination, or Charge exhibited against him, nor did there appear any legal Cause for his Commitment.

Illegal Com-
mitments.

In

CHESHIRE.

1663.

Imprisonments
and Distresses
for Tithes.

In the Month of November this Year, *Thomas Buckley, Dorothy Deane, William Burtonwood, and Ellen Williamson*, were imprisoned by Writs de Excommunicato capiendo upon Prosecutions in the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes. And in the same Year for 7*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* demanded of *Anne Janney of Hanford, Thomas Janney jun. and James Harrison* of the same, for Tithes, Goods were taken by Distress to the Value of 28*l.* 18*s.*

1664.

Prisoners for
Tithes.

John Worrall, Thomas Janney, and William Burges, were detained Prisoners in this County for refusing to pay Tithes.

ANNO 1664.

1665.

18 Sent to
Prison.Death of E.
Knevett in
Prison.

Eighteen Persons, taken in a Meeting at the House of *Edward Alcock* of *Mobberly*, were by Warrants from the Deputy Lieutenants of the County committed to the House of Correction at *Middlewich* for two Months, where they found several others of their Friends; so that they were much incommoded for want of Room, being closely kept, and none suffered to visit them, and when *William Woodcock* and *Mary Stretch* came to the Prison to see their Brethren, themselves were imprisoned for attempting it. Nor were any admitted to bring them their necessary Food, but as they received it through the Windows of the Prison. By means of this close Imprisonment in the Depth of Winter, *Edward Knevett*, a Man of good Reputation, aged about seventy, and infirm of Body, fell sick and died there, before the two Months were expired; at the End of which Time the other seventeen were released; four of whom, viz. *Thomas Janney, Thomas Pott, Jeffery Burges, and Edward Alcock*, were soon after taken again at a Meeting, and recommitted for four Months.

ANNO 1665.

1666.

Imprisonments
for Meeting.Remarks on
two Informers.

James Harrison, William Janney, John Falkner, John Nixon, Thomas Pott, John Lamb, John Milner, and Thomas Bretton, were committed to the common Goal at *Chester*, the former five of them for six Months, and the other for three Months, being convicted of having been at a Meeting held at the House of *Thomas Janney* at *Pownal-Fee*, upon the Information of *John Burges* and *Thomas Hease*, noted Informers, Persons of a bad Character, and observed to be very unsuccessful: *Hease* was obliged to fly for Debt, and he who was used to plunder his Neighbours Houses, was turned out of his own by the Sheriff, and some of his Children sent to the Parish for Maintenance. *Burges* was thrown into Goal for Debt, and he who was instrumental in sending his Neighbours to Prison, died a Prisoner himself.

ANNO 1666.

1667.

Commitment
of M. Briggs.

In this Year for 23*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* demanded of several Persons for Tithes, they suffered Distress of Corn, Cattle, and other Things, to the Value of 81*l.* 18*s.* One of them was *Thomas Briggs*, whose Wife *Margaret*, before her Marriage to him, being then a Widow, was sued for Tithes in the Consistory Court at *Chester* and excommunicated. After she was married, she was by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo committed to Prison at *Chester*, and detained there five Years and three Months.

ANNO 1667.

1670.

Richard Milner, fined 20*l.* for a Meeting at his House, had Goods taken from him worth 37*l.*

ANNO 1670.

Several

Several Inhabitants of *Edlestone, Stoake*, and adjacent Places, suffered, for their religious Meetings, Distress of Goods to the Value of 86*l.* 17*s.* It was observed that when *Thomas Badcock*, a Man active in making Distress on the Goods of *John Simcock* one of the Sufferers, was soon after visited with Sickness, he complained that his having an hand in that Persecution did grievously burden his Conscience; wherefore he sent to the said *John Simcock*, who visited him in a tender Christian Spirit, freely forgiving the Injury done to himself, and also prayed to the Lord to forgive him.

Richard Smith of *Chester*, had his Goods seized several Times, for Meetings at his House, to a Value far exceeding the Fines imposed, which yet were usually 20*l.* for each Meeting: Likewise *Edward Morgan*, and others of that City, suffered greatly by the Conventicle Act, upon the Information of Soldiers, and base Persons, encouraged by the Mayor, and Alderman *Poole*, who, when he was informed of a Meeting, ordered his Clerk to proceed to the utmost Extent of the Law, bidding the Officers take enough, who accordingly made Distresses to five or six Times the Value of the Fines.

ANNO 1671.

Among the Justices of Peace in this County, *John Daniel* was so remarkably earnest in prosecuting Men for their religious Meetings, that he made his own Servants Informers, and took the Goods himself, of which were taken by his own Warrants in this and the foregoing Year, to the Value of 85*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*

In this Year *Thomas Janney*, for 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* and *Thomas Pott*, for 20*s.* for Tithes claimed by *Peter Ledsham* Priest of *Wilmslow*, had their Goods taken away to the Value of 3*l.* 10*s.* each.

ANNO 1672.

Robert Pearson, for a Demand of 1*l.* 16*s.* for Tithes, had his Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 3*l.* 6*s.*

ANNO 1673.

Thomas Janney, *Thomas Pott*, and *Robert Pearson*, for Tithes claimed of them worth but 2*l.* 14*s.* had Goods taken from them to the Value of 10*l.* 19*s.*

ANNO 1674 and 1675.

In these Years, for their religious Assemblies held at *Willison*, the following Distresses were made, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
Taken from <i>Thomas Brassey</i> , for preaching there, Goods worth	26	0	0
<i>Henry Fletcher</i>	16	3	4
<i>John Sharplace</i>	9	6	0
<i>Randal Elliott</i> , for suffering a Meeting in his House	20	0	0
And from several others, to the Value of	9	10	10
In all	81	0	2

Among these Sufferers was *Samuel Glent* a poor Boy, from whom they took his wearing Apparel, worth but 13*s.* 4*d.*

In the Year 1675 several Distresses were made upon Warrants granted by *Jeffery Shackerly* Governour of *Chester Castle*, on Complaints of *John Johnson*, *Richard Johnson*, and *John Frodsham* of *Trafford-Bridge*, Informers, who made much Spoil: Ten or twelve Widows, who had many fatherless Children, were bereft of all their Goods, till they had not a Skillet left to boil their Childrens Food in. These wicked Informers, and *Edward Birch* a Constable, pulled

CHESHIRE.

1670.

Distresses.
An Informer
troubled in
Mind

Sufferings by
the Conventicle Act.

1671.

Eagerness of
Justice Daniel in prosecuting.

Distresses.

1672.

R. Pearson.

1673.

T. Janney,
and others.

1674 and
1675.

Distresses.

A poor Boy's
Clothes taken.

CHESHIRE.
1674 and
1675.

several out of a Meeting by the Hair of their Heads, swearing they would cut off their Arms, if they would not come out, and abusing them very inhumanly.

In the same Year *John Daniel* of *Dansbury*, a Justice of the Peace, caused to be taken by Distress from *Thomas Briggs* and others, to the Value of 116*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* in Kine and Horses, which the Justice kept, working them as his own, and also took to his own Use their Household Goods and other Provision.

From *Margaret Briggs*, for a Meeting at her House, for a Fine of 5*l.* were taken three milch Cows worth 10*l.* And from several others present at that Meeting, Horses and Goods worth 8*l.* 11*s.*

Remarkable, about this Time, was the Case of *William Hall* of *Congleton*, who, being fined 20*l.* for a Meeting at his House, had his Dwelling-house broke open, and two Cart-Loads of Goods worth 40*l.* carried away. Beside which they made Distress of a Mare of his: The Mare after some Time came Home again: He went with two of his Neighbours to the chief Magistrate of the Place, and acquainted him that the Mare was come Home again, and in what Field she was: Notwithstanding this, they caused him to be arraigned at the Sessions as a Felon, on an Indictment for stealing the Mare: But the Equity of the Judge and Jury acquitted him, and frustrated their Malice who would have taken away his Life.

About the same Time, by Warrants from Justice *Manwaring*, Cattle and Goods worth about 100*l.* were taken from sundry Persons in and about *Nantwich*: From *Randal Elliot* they took the Bed he lay on, and even the Dung-hill in his Yard. When some of the Sufferers upon an Appeal were acquitted by the Jury, the Justices would not accept their Verdict; but at the next Sessions gave treble Costs against the Appellants. The chief Informer was one *John Widdowbury* of *Hanklow*, Esq; who being indebted 40*l.* upon Bond to *Thomas Brassey*, a Member of that Meeting, upon his Demand of Payment was incensed against him, and thus vented his Wrath upon his Friends. He also got an old Excommunication revived against the said *Thomas Brassey*, and sent him to Prison, and swore that he would send his Wife thither also.

1676.

Seizures for
Preaching, &c.

ANNO 1676.

John Simcock, for a second Offence in preaching at Meetings held in the House of *Randal Elliott* in *Ridley*, had his Goods taken away to the Value of 41*l.* And several others for being there, to the Value of 14*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*

1677.

P. Leicester,
a persecuting
Justice.

ANNO 1677.

On Midsummer-day this Year, Sir *Peter Leicester*, a Justice of the Peace, who also acted the Part of an Informer, came personally to a Meeting at the House of *William Gandy*, shut up the Doors, and placed a Guard of Soldiers at them, while he took a List of about two Hundred Names, and fined *Margaret Fox* and *Thomas Docwra* 20*l.* each, for Preaching; he also ordered 20*l.* to be levied on several of the Assembly for the House they met at, beside their own particular Fines, for which he issued Warrants of Distress, threatening the Constables, that if they did not execute them to the utmost, he would bind them to their good Behaviour, charging them to sell a Cow for 5*s.* and to take enough for themselves. Those Officers, thus animated, took away for that one Meeting, Goods and Cattle to the Value of about 200*l.* from *John Hatburst*, *Hugh Crosby*, *Richard Parr*, *Eleazar Taylor*, *John Eaton jun.* and *Peter Pickering*.

1678.

Many Distresses
for religious Meet-
ings.

ANNO 1678.

Deborah Busbel of *Alvandy*, a Widow with six Children, for a Meeting held at her House, had taken from her by *Ralph Rutter* an Informer, and two Bay-liffs, five Cows worth 17*l.* *Thomas*

Thomas Tutley of Helsby, fined 20*l.* for a Meeting at his House, suffered the Loss of nine Cows worth 27*l.* five of which were sold for 14*l.* another for 1*l.* Rutter the Informer took two of them, and John Davis the Priest had the other. But this not satisfying them, they afterward took other Goods worth 7*l.* and a Cart and Wheels worth 50*s.* This Priest Davis was very officious in promoting the Sale of those Cattle and Goods, for which one Randal Malin thus reproved him: "John Davis, wilt thou take upon thee to be a Preacher of Righteousness, and put Men upon taking away and selling their honest Neighbours Goods? Dost thou believe this will cause an adding to thy Church daily such as shall be saved?" The Priest, offended at this Reproof, meditated Revenge, and procured a Warrant from Sir Philip Egerton for his Imprisonment, on an Information of his being concerned with one John Hodgskin in preventing a Butcher from buying the Cattle offered to Sale, by telling him that they were distrained; for which Cause Hodgskin had been sent to Goal some Time before on Rutter's Information.

The said Randal Malin, for Praying in a Meeting, was fined 20*l.* 5*s.* for which Distress was made of his Household Goods, Corn and Hay.

Taken also by Distress for Meetings at Helsby and Newton, from

John Cheshire of Overton, Corn, Hay, and other Things, worth	9	0	0
Mary Trafford, a Cart and Wheels, worth	2	10	0
John Brown, four Cows and two young Beasts, worth	15	0	0
which were sold by Rutter the Informer to other Informers for 9 <i>l.</i>			
John Hodgskin, four Cows worth	13	0	0
Richard Ashbrook and Peter Hatton of Frodsham, Goods worth	6	0	0
Jane Lownes, Goods worth	0	12	0
Richard Sarrat, five Cows worth	16	0	0
and for another Meeting shortly after, two Horses & a Mare worth	16	0	0
Richard Orme of Frodsham, Goods worth	10	13	0
Thomas Stretch of Overton, Goods worth	1	0	0
Richard Gregg of Barrow, a Mare and six Yearlings worth	13	0	0
	102	15	0

Grievous was the Spoil made by the Informers, who took away Goods without producing their Warrant, and frequently sold the Cattle taken for less than one Third of their Value; for they took as much as they pleased, which they sold at what Price they list, and rendered no Account of any Overplus: In which Justice Egerton encouraged them, saying, *he would justify them if they sold Cattle at 12*d.* a piece.* Thus instructed, they sold as many Cattle for 4*l.* 5*s.* as were really worth 17*l.* From Arthur Wilcoxon they took a Nag, a Mare and two Heifers, worth 11*l.* and sold them for 4*l.* 10*s.* And when at another Time the said Arthur was fined 27*l.* 10*s.* they distrained a Bull and fifteen Cows, a Yoke of Oxen, a Nag, and a Mare, worth above 70*l.* and because a Neighbouring Constable refused his Assistance in making that Distress, they complained against him to Justice Egerton, who bound him over to the Sessions, and so terrified him with Threats, that he chose to pay off the Fines, and take the Cattle upon himself. From Thomas Peckoe of Stanthorne, they took a Mare, refusing to produce a Warrant for their so doing; but said *they had her, and would keep her.* From Thomas Vernon of Stanthorne, for a Fine but of 10*s.* they were driving away three Cows and two young Beasts worth 16*l.* which the Neighbours observing, prevented by engaging to pay the Fine. From Roger Dicks of Occleston, they took two Mares worth 6*l.* and sold them for 20*s.*

Beside the Sufferings beforementioned, several others in this County, for Fines amounting to 29*l.* 15*s.* had Goods taken away to the Value of 51*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*

John Simcock, fined for Preaching, had taken from him eight Cows and eleven Heifers, worth 90*l.*

CHESHIRE.
1678.

Grievous Spoil
made by In-
formers.

Distresses.

CHESHIRE.
1679.

Fine for
speaking at a
Funeral.
Seizures for
Meeting.

ANNO 1679.

The same *John Simcock*, for speaking some Words of Exhortation at a Funeral, had his Goods taken away to the Value of 100*l*.

Matthew Nixon of *Keaquick*, for a Meeting at his House, had taken from him three Cows, Hemp, and Household

Goods, to the Value of
And for being at that Meeting was taken
From *Thomas Briggs* of *Newton*, an Horse sold for
William Taylor of *Sutton*, an Hog worth
Thomas Boulton of *Norton*, a Mare worth

l.	s.	d.
14	17	0
2	0	0
1	0	0
1	0	0
18	17	0

In this Year was also taken by Distress for Fines of 12 *d.* per Sunday, for Absence from the National Worship, the Sum of 36*l.* 7*s.*

23 Returned
into the Ex-
chequer.

About twenty three others, convicted at the Quarter Sessions of one Month's Absence from their Parish Church on the Act of 23 *Q. Eliz.* were fined 20*l.* each, and returned into the Court of *Exchequer*, as Delinquents, indebted to the King, namely, *John Wrench*, *Richard Piton*, *Alice Jackson*, *Anne Wrench*, *Thomas Norcott*, *John Hall*, *Thomas Powel*, *Mary Norcott*, *Peter Dix*, *Samuel Tovie*, *John Jackson*, *James Dix*, *William Woodcock*, *Mary Stretch*, *John Peckow*, *Helen Peckow*, *Thomas Vernon*, *Thomas Peckow*, *Gilbert Woolam*, *Thomas Brassey*, *Joseph Powel*, *John Sharples*, and *Henry Fletcher*.

1681.

Fines and
Imprison-
ments.

ANNO 1681.

John Simcock of *Stoak*, by the Statute of 23 *Eliz.* made against *Popish* Recu-
sants, had Goods taken from him worth 40*l.*

In the same Year Distresses were made on the Goods and Chattels of many Persons in this County, for Fines laid on them for their Absence from the National Worship, to the Amount of 17*l.* and upwards. And such as had no Goods, which through frequent Seizures was the Case of some, were sent to Prison, of whom were *Thomas Frier* of *Kingsley*, *Thomas Stretch* of *Overton*, and *John Cotton* of *Frodsham*. From one *John Dutton* of *Overton*, the Prosecutors extorted a Demand of 7*s.* by forcibly haling him out of his House, when his Family were in Bed, carrying him to an Alehouse, and threatening instantly to send him to Goal: By which they so affrighted a Kinswoman of his that she paid them.

1682.

Warrants ex-
ecuted.

ANNO 1682.

Upon an Information made by *Allen* and *Birket*, two Informers, (the latter of whom shortly after fled the Country) of a Meeting at the House of *John Eaton* sen. a Warrant was obtained from Sir *Robert Leicester* Justice, by which Distresses were made on the said *John Eaton* and others, to the Value of 70*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*

Fines for
Meetings at
Chester, and
Imprison-
ments.

In the Month of November this Year, *William Harvey*, an Alderman of *Chester*, came to the Meeting there, and observing who were present, informed the Mayor, and they two signed a Warrant, by which for Fines of 2*l.* 5*s.* Goods were taken to the Value of 5*l.* 11*s.* Of the Persons so fined and distrained on, two, viz. *Thomas Griffith* and *Edward Ogden*, were by the Mayor's Order committed to Prison.

More Dis-
tresses by War-
rants from
Sir R. Lei-
cester.

On the same Day, Sir *Robert Leicester*, attended by one Captain *Needham*, with his Soldiers, went to the Meeting at *Franley*, and fined all the Persons met, and ordered Distress of their Goods to be made, which was done to the Value of 32*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* of which, they said, 3*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* was for Charges, it

it being usual with the Constable, Informers, and their Associates, to run up large Scores at Alehouses, and include the Reckoning as Part of the Fines.

John Kinnerly, for being at several Meetings, had his Goods taken to the Value of 60*l.* And *Shadrach Walley* fined 20*l.* for himself and three Sisters, had fourteen Cows taken worth 35*l.* and at another Time two Cows worth 5*l.* The House of *James Clayton* was beset in the Night by Constables, who broke open his Doors, and took away most of his Goods, amounting but to 3*l.* About the same Time *Edmund Ogden*, *William Taylor*, *Charles Pickering*, *Alexander Laurence*, *William Kent*, *Robert Dix*, and *William Snead*, had also their Goods taken to the Value of 14*l.* 5*s.*

In this Year *Leftwich Oldfield*, one of the County Justices, discovered more Zeal than Knowledge in the Law, when coming too late to disperse a Meeting, just before concluded, he ordered one *William Becket*, a rude Informer, to break the Door of the Meeting-house in pieces; and some Time after, when it had been mended again, he came with a Constable and others, and carried away all the Seats of the Place, with the Door and Window Shutters, and never returned them. He also employed the Informer, with Constables, to keep the Quakers out of their Meeting-house almost a Year together. After which he caused some of them to appear at the Quarter Sessions, and procured the Commitment of thirteen of them to Prison for three Months: And at another Quarter Sessions at *Namptwich*, he caused *James Dix*, *Joseph Dix*, and *Samuel Tovey*, to be imprisoned for the same Time: He likewise committed *John Furnival* and *Henry Maddock*. He also preferred Indictments against several for their religious Assemblies, whereupon they were convicted and fined; of whom *John Kinnerly* and *William Woodcock* had their Goods distrained: The said *John Kinnerly*, with *Daniel Towers* a lame Man, whose Wife was also lame, and *John Lamb* a poor Labourer, were committed to the House of Correction for six Months; whither also were committed on the Act for Banishment, *Anne Rylance*, and *Phebe Gorst* a poor Widow, having three small Children dependent on her Labour for their Subsistence.

Divers other Persons were prosecuted this Year for Absence from the National Worship, and had their Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 66*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*

ANNO 1683.

On the 3d of the Month called *June* this Year, *Thomas Needham* and *Philip Eger-ton* Justices, came to a Meeting at *Newton*, and demanded of those who were met, whether they would enter into Recognizance to appear at the next Quarter Sessions, and upon their general Refusal so to do, they made a *Mittimus*, and sent for two Constables, then at the publick Worship, to conduct about eighty of them to *Chester Castle*: Being brought thither, they could have neither Rooms nor Lodgings, but for two Nights were obliged, some of them to walk about, others to lie on Tables and Benches, and some on Flags spread upon the Floor. At length about thirty of them were put into a stinking Dungeon, out of which Felons were then removed: Five Weeks after seventy five of them were carried near fourteen Miles to the Sessions, where about eight of them were discharged, and most of the others fined; with an Order, in case of Non-payment to commit them again to Prison: By which Order many of them were recommitted within the next three Months, together with others to the Number of forty eight; among whom was *Alice Hignell*, a very aged Woman, and being exceeding weak, they carried her to Prison in a Cart.

On the 26th of the Month called *August* this Year, the aforesaid Justices came again to the Meeting at the same Place, and committed to Prison eighteen Persons; all of whom (except one for whom Bond was given) lay there about five Weeks till the Quarter Sessions, where they were convicted on the Act for Banishment, seven for a second Offence, and the rest for a first Offence, and Warrants were issued to the Constables of the Places where they dwelt for levying 50*s.* upon each of them, or committing them again to Prison:

CHESHIRE.
1682.Persecuting
Acts of L.
Oldfield.Diverse Dis-
tresses.

1683.

About 180
Persons sent
to Chester
Castle.75 Carried to
Sessions.A. Hignell
carried to Pri-
son in a Cart.
18 Persons
committed on
the Act for
Banishment.

CHESHIRE.
1683.

Sickness of J.
Gandy.

Verdict of a
Jury rejected
by the Court.

Violence of
Justice Need-
ham.

All the Goods
of T. Roland
seized.

7 Committed,
and three of
them convicted
on the Act for
Banishment.

Sufferings on
the Statute
for 20l. per
Month.

In Consequence of which *Thomas Williamson*, *Ralph Helsby jun.* and *Elizabeth Waite*, were recommitted to *Chester* Goal some Months after, and *Mary*, Wife of *Benjamin Bangs*, was also recommitted by the Name of *Mary Low* Widow, by which Name, though the Goaler acknowledged the Commitment to be erroneous, he nevertheless received her.

John Gandy of *Over-Whitley*, summoned to appear at *Chester* Assizes in September this Year, waited there a Week and was not called, wherefore the Bayliff committed him to Prison, till a Warrant came to bring him to the Quarter Sessions at *Knutsford* on the 2d of October, where he also waited two Days and was not called: He was returned to Prison at *Chester*, where, being a weakly Man, the Fatigue of Travelling, and Durance of Imprisonment, caused him a Fit of Sickness to the great Hazard of his Life.

On the 21st of October, *Thomas Wilcock* and *William Harvey*, Aldermen of *Chester*, took ten Persons out of a Meeting there, and sent them to Prison. At the next Sessions they were indicted, and by the Jury found *not guilty*: A Verdict the Court rejected twice, and sent the Jury out again, but they persisted in their Judgment. The Court nevertheless sent them back to Prison till an Adjournment of the Sessions two Months after, at which they were not called. After which they were privately discharged by Alderman *Harvey* on their Promise to appear at the next Sessions; but no farther Notice was taken of them.

On the 31st of the Month called *January*, *Thomas Needham* and *Philip Eger-ton* Justices, came to a Meeting at *Newton*, and finding a Person at Prayer, Justice *Needham* fell upon him, beat him on the Head, and punched him on the Breast with his Cane, pulled his Neckcloth in pieces, and threw him down and kicked him. He also struck several others so that their Heads were swelled with the Blows. The other Justices desired him to forbear, saying, *Let us prosecute the Law upon them, but not abuse them.* Thus checked he forbore striking, but continued railing, telling them, *they were Dogs and no Men, no more Christians than their Horses, &c.* Then they took their Names, fined them, and granted Warrants for Distress, by which was taken

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>John Williamson</i> of <i>Creewood-hall</i> , a Mare worth	8	0	0
<i>John Clark</i> of <i>Frodsham</i> , Cloth worth	5	0	0
<i>Elizabeth Sarrat</i> of <i>Woodhouse</i> , Goods worth	2	0	0
<i>Peter Hatton</i> , <i>James Hatton</i> , and <i>Richard Sarratt</i>	0	15	0
	15	15	0

Thomas Roland of *Acton*, was also fined 5s. which a Neighbour paid to keep him from Prison, he having no Goods left, for all his personal Estate had been lately seized by an *Exchequer* Process for 20l. per Month for Absence from his *Parish Church*.

On the 24th of the Month called *February*, Constables, with a Warrant from *Leftwich Oldfield* Justice, took by Force seven Persons out of a Meeting at *Middlewich*, and carried them before him, who sent them to *Chester* Castle till the next Sessions, when four of them, viz. *William Kent*, *William Rylance*, *John Lamb*, and *Daniel Towers*, were convicted of a third Offence in order to Banishment; and the other three, namely, *John Furnivall*, *Joseph Dix*, and *Phebe Gorst*, were fined for a second Offence. The said *John Lamb* died in Prison near two Years after.

Of those who suffered this Year by the Statute made against *Papish* Recusants for 20l. per Month, were

	l.	s.	d.
<i>Arthur Wilcoxon</i> of <i>Manly</i>	30	0	0
<i>John Brown</i> of <i>Kingsley</i>	8	0	0
<i>William Woodcock</i> of <i>Church-holm</i>	11	0	0
<i>William Janney</i> of <i>Hanford</i>	16	5	0
	65	5	0

Car. over

CHESHIRE.
1683.

	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	65	5	0
Richard Sarratt of Croton	23	0	0
John Bancroft of Etchels in Netherden Parish	15	0	0
Thomas Roland of Weaverham	31	6	2
John Walworth of Frodsham	12	0	0
	146	11	2

In this Year also many suffered by Distress of Goods for their conscientious Absence from the National Worship, to the Amount of 74*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* Joseph Shawcross, for lack of Distress, was sent to Prison; and Deborah Busbel of Alvandy, Widow, who had before suffered the Loss of all her Goods, was, by Warrant from Justice Egerton, committed to Goal for Absence from the Parish Worship four Days, Part of which Time she was confined in Prison. Among the Distresses last mentioned, Jeremiah Owen Baker, of Stockport, had Bread taken from him, which was offered to be given to the Poor of the Town, but they refused it, saying, *they would rather starve than take it.* So it was restored to the Owner. There was also a Quantity of Cheese, taken from Jane Scrivener, given to the Poor of the Parish; several of whom brought back to the Owner what they had received of it, till near one Half was so returned: The Consciousness of the Sufferers Innocence did so affect the Minds of many, that they thought it a Sin to partake of any Part of the Spoil.

ANNO 1684.

1684.

On the 20th of the Month called April this Year, William Harvey Alderman, with a Constable and other Assistants, came to a Meeting in Chester, and committed ten Persons to the City Goal: They were soon after discharged on Promise to appear at next Sessions: But it happened, before the End of that Sessions, that the said Alderman Harvey, their principal Prosecutor, was seized with an extreme Pain in his Bowels, for which he could find no Remedy, though he swallowed Bullets of Gold, and tried other Experiments without Success: He died in a very short Time. This uncommon End of a Person very earnest in executing the Laws against religious Meetings, could not but come under the Remarks and Censure of those who had been Sufferers through his Means.

Observable
Death of a
persecuting
Alderman.

On the 1st of the Month called June, Hugh Burges, for a Meeting at his House in Wilmslow, was fined 20*l.* and 20*l.* more for his Wife's speaking a few Words in that Meeting, for which the Constables and Informers took away all the Goods they could find in his House, to the Value of 17*l.* At the same Meeting was John Milner, whom they fined 15*l.* for himself and others; but he, foreseeing the Ruin he was exposed to, had assigned his Stock to one of his Creditors for Payment of his just Debts: The Constables seized his Cattle, which the Creditor replevin'd. At this the Justice, John Andern, highly displeased, sent the Constables and Informers again, who seized all that was in the House. The Justice also so terrified the Creditor, that he caused him to be bound for Payment of 10*l.* which was added to the Debt of the said John Milner.

Seizures on
H. Burges
and J. Mil-
ner.

Thomas Pott of Wilmslow, for a Meeting at his House, was fined 20*l.* but he being very poor, the Officers, who broke open his Doors, and rifled his House, could find no more Goods than amounted to 3*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* which they took, and the poor Man and his Family were obliged to seek for Lodging at their Neighbours Houses.

Case of T.
Pott,

From Elizabeth Sarratt of Woodhouse, Widow, was taken on the Statute of 20*l.* per Month, for Absence from the National Worship, Corn, Cattle, and other Goods, worth 17*l.* 8*s.* And from Mary Trafford Widow, for her Contumacy in attending religious Meetings, Cattle worth 11*l.* 10*s.* And from Elizabeth

and of E.
Sarratt, and
others.

CHESHIRE.
1684.

Fines for
for Absence
from the pub-
lick Worship.
Ill Usage of
J. Helsby.

zabeth Cusb and others, Goods worth 8*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* Also from *John Brown* and *John Walworth*, to the Value of 12*l.*

In this Year several Persons had their Goods taken by Distress for Fines of 12*d.* each Sunday, for absenting from the publick Worship, to the Value of 31*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* And *John Cotton*, for a Fine of 4*s.* was committed to Prison.

John Helsby, having been fined 8*s.* and no Distress to be found, the Warrant was returned, and a new one granted for his Imprisonment. The Constable broke open his Door, and took him and thrust him into a nasty Place of Confinement in the Court-house, but after some Time turned him out again, bidding him to be ready next Morning to go to *Chester Goal*; but reflecting afterward on the Illegality of what he had already done, he proceeded no farther.

1685.

Fines for
Meeting.

ANNO 1685.

On the 26th of the Month called *May*, *Benjamin Bangs*, for Preaching in a Meeting, had Bedding and other Goods carted away by two Bayliffs to the Value of 20*l.* And several others, for meeting together, suffered Distresses of Goods, to the Value of 31*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*

Premunire.

Thomas Griffith had Sentence of *Premunire* passed upon him for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance. And *Peter Dutton*, for the same Cause, suffered about a Year's Imprisonment.

Fines for a
Church Rate,
so called.

Thomas Buckley, for a Demand of 10*s.* for a Church-Rate, so called, had his Corn and an Horse taken away worth 5*l.* And *Ralph Brock*, for a Claim of 6*s.* 8*d.* a Cow worth 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

1686.

Release of
Prisoners.

ANNO 1686.

On the 12th of *October* this Year, the following Persons were released out of Prison by King *James's* general Pardon, viz.

Their Names,
&c.

Thomas Griffith, who had been close confined under Sentence of *Premunire* sixteen Months.

Henry Akerly, who had been imprisoned about the same Length of Time for being at a Meeting.

Edmund Ogden, *Mary Edge*, and *Francis Morgan*, taken at a Meeting above two Years before.

William Kent, *William Rylance*, and *Daniel Towers*, who had been Prisoners about two Years on the Act for Banishment.

John Cotton and *Jonathan Woodward*, who had been confined twenty three Months for want of Effects to make Distress when fined for Absence from the National Worship. And

Peter Dutton, who had been Prisoner about a Year for refusing the Oath of Allegiance.

Summary of
Tithes taken
in this County.

The Account of Tithes, taken from Persons called *Quakers* in this County, from the Year 1674 to the Year 1690, including both those Years, amounts to 989*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*

CORN-
WALL
1655

C H A P. VIII.

CORNWALL.

ANNO 1655.

THE earliest Prosecution of the People called *Quakers* in this County appears to be that of *George Fox*, *Edward Pyott*, and *William Salt*, who travelling together, and preaching the Gospel, were taken into Custody, and, under a Guard of Horse, sent to Prison with the following *Mittimus*, viz.

First Prosecution in this County.

“ **PETER CEELY**, one of the *Justices of the Peace* of this County,
“ to the Keeper of his Highness's Goal at Launceston, or his lawful
“ Deputy in that Behalf, Greeting.

“ **I** Send you herewithal by the Bearer hereof, the Bodies of *Edward Pyott* of
“ *Bristol*, and *George Fox* of *Drayton* and *Clea* in *Leicestershire*, and *William*
“ *Salt* of *London*, which they pretend to be the Places of their Habitations,
“ who go under the Notion of *Quakers*, and acknowledge themselves to be such,
“ who have spread several Papers tending to the Disturbance of the publick
“ Peace, and cannot render any lawful Account of coming into these Parts,
“ being Persons altogether unknown, and having no Pass for their travelling
“ up and down the Country, and refusing to give Sureties for their good Be-
“ haviour, according to the Law in that Behalf provided, and refuse to take
“ the Oath of Abjuration, &c. These are therefore in the Name of his High-
“ ness the Lord Protector, to will and command you, that when the Bodies of
“ the said *Edward Pyott*, *George Fox*, and *William Salt*, shall be unto you
“ brought, you them receive, and in his Highness's Prison aforesaid you safely
“ keep them, until by due Course of Law they shall be delivered. Hereof fail
“ not, as you will answer the Contrary at your Peril. Given under my Hand
“ and Seal at Saint Ives the eighteenth Day of January 1655.

Mittimus for
imprisoning
G. Fox, E.
Pyott, and
W. Salt.

“ *P. Ceely.*”

After nine Weeks Imprisonment they were brought before Chief Justice Glyn at the Assizes, when the Cause of their Commitment appeared insufficient, for the Paper mentioned in the *Mittimus*, was only an Exhortation to fear God, and to learn of Christ the Light, and had nothing in it tending to Sedition, nor had they broken any Law. Nevertheless, the Judge, not willing to discharge those whom by Law he could not condemn, fined them 5*l.* each, under Pretence of a Contempt of the Court, in coming before him with their Hats on, and for not paying those Fines, remanded them to Prison, where they were most inhumanly used, being put into a dismal Dungeon, called *Dooms- dale*, a Place where the Excrements of the Prisoners had lain many Years, so that it was like Mire, and in some Parts of it up to the Top of the Shoes in Ordure and Urine. Here they were forced to stand all Night, for they could not lie down by reason of the Filth, nor would the Goaler suffer them to have any Straw to lie on. Thus they continued a considerable Time, till the Sessions at *Bodmin*, when upon representing their Case to the Justices, they obtained an Order for opening the Door of *Dooms-dale*, and that they might be suffered to

They are fined
by Judge
Glyn for not
pulling off
their Hats.

Their cruel
Usage in a
filthy Dun-
geon.

CORN-
WALL.
1655.

O. Crom-
well's Remark
on one who
offered to lie
in Prison in
G. Fox's
Stead.
H. Peters's
Observation on
G. Fox's Im-
prisonment.
Convincement
of T. Lower.

Their Dis-
charge.
A cruel Goaler
cruelly re-
quited.

Others im-
prisoned for vi-
siting the Pri-
soners.

Imprisonment
of J. Ellis.
Beating of
N. Jole.

Prisoners at
Truro.

Imprisonment
of B. May-
nard and J.
Myers.

Others also im-
prisoned.

Cruel Confine-
ment of T.
Deeble.

Hostile attack-
ing a religious
Meeting near
Penryn.

clean it, and to buy their Provision in the Town. While George Fox lay there in Prison, one of his Friends offered himself to Oliver Cromwell, to lie in Prison Body for Body in George Fox's Stead: But Cromwell answered, he could not grant it, being contrary to Law, and turning to some of his Council standing by, queried, *Which of you would do as much for me, if I were in the same Condition?* Upon this, and other Applications to him on their Behalf, he sent an Order to the Governour of Pendennis Castle to examine into the Circumstances of their Case: On which Occasion Hugh Peters, one of the Protector's Chaplains, told him, he could not give George Fox a better Opportunity of spreading his Principles in Cornwall, than by imprisoning him there. The Truth of which Observation the Sequel confirmed, for he was visited by many, of whom several embraced his Doctrine; one of which was Thomas Lower, a Physician of London, who, asking many Questions concerning Religion, received such clear Answers from George Fox, that he said, *his Words were as a Flash of Lightning, they ran so through him, adding, that he had never met with Men of such Wisdom and Penetration in all his Life.* By their Means he became fully convinced of the Doctrine of Truth, which he afterward made a publick Profession of. The whole Time of their Imprisonment was about thirty Weeks, when they were discharged by an Order from Major-General Desborow. The Case of the Goaler who had so barbarously used them was observable; for in the next Year he was turned out of his Place, and for some Crime cast into Goal himself, where, for his unruly Behaviour, he was by the succeeding Goaler put into Doomsdale, locked in Irons, and beaten, and bid to remember, *how he had abused those good Men in that nasty Dungeon.* Thus the divine Justice overtook him, deservedly rewarding him with the same Measure which he had unjustly meted unto others. At length he died in the Prison, poor and miserable.

Anne Blakely, James Godfrey, and Joseph Coale, were imprisoned at Launceston for no other Cause than visiting the Prisoners, and representing their Case to the Justices: After a long Confinement, Coale being discharged, and going homeward, was taken up again, and recommitted before he got out of the County.

John Ellis, going to Market, was taken on the Road not far from Home, and sent to Goal.

Nicholas Jole was assaulted, and sorely beaten by a Person who met him on the Highway, and when he complained to the Magistrates found no Redress.

Dorothy Waugh, for visiting Susanna Daniel, imprisoned at Truro, was also there detained.

ANNO 1656. Benjamin Maynard, standing still in the Place of publick Worship at Launceston, was laid violent Hands on, and by the Recorder committed to Goal, where he suffered long Imprisonment. Also James Myers, for speaking in Opposition to the Doctrine of the Priest, after his Sermon at Tudy, was imprisoned a long Time among Felons in Doomsdale.

ANNO 1657. For the like Cause of opposing in publick the Doctrine of the established Preachers, were imprisoned, Robert Hawkin and John Mably: Against the former of whom, an Indictment was drawn up at the Sessions, but the Grand Jury would not find it. Joane Edwards was also imprisoned near half a Year for the like Offence.

Thomas Deeble, for refusing to pay Tithes, was kept in Prison at Bodmin near half a Year, under a cruel Keeper, who would not suffer some of his Friends to visit him, and beat and abused others who came to see him.

James Myers and Edward Winacott were violently haled out of a Meeting at Stoke-Climsland by the High Constable and his Assistants, who abused them very much, and then carried them before a Justice, who sent them to Launceston Goal, where they were detained a long Time.

In the Month called August this Year, many of this People were assembled for Worship on the Down near Penryn, when a Captain with his Troop of Horse came furiously rushing on them, and had not the Horses been more merciful than the Riders, several in all Probability had been trodden under

Foot:

Foot: The Captain ordered some to be stript, others searched, and took away one of their Horses; some of them were beaten, others had their Blood spilt, and some had the Hair of their Heads plucked off by the Soldiers. At length the Captain, dividing his Troop, ordered them to be carried as Prisoners, some one way, and some another; the Soldiers having so separated them at some Miles Distance, and taken from them what they pleased, left them.

ANNO 1658. *Loveday Hambly* was imprisoned several Weeks at *Bodmin*, for not paying Tithes of Geese and Swine, amounting but to 13 s. 4 d. though she had in that and the former Year suffered Distress to the Value of above 45 l. for about 8 l. demanded.

John Hambly was imprisoned twelve Weeks on an *Exchequer* Process for Tithes. Also *John Ellis* was kept Prisoner in a close nasty Room, among so many other Prisoners, that the Stench of the Place bred a kind of Infection among them: While thus confined, his Wife was not suffered to go in to carry him Food, but he was obliged to take it in at an Hole in the Door.

In this Year *Samson Hawkin* was imprisoned for publicly opposing a Preacher at *Southill*, of which being convicted on an Indictment at Sessions, he was sent to *Bridewell*, and kept there twenty three Weeks. *Tristram Clark*, on a Charge of the like Nature, was a Prisoner some Time at *Launceston*, but being indicted at the Sessions was acquitted by the Jury.

John Rowett was imprisoned six Months for speaking to the Priest of *Pennryn* in the Street, for it was criminal at that Time to call in Question the Truth of the Preachers by Law established, and the Justices were impowered by an Ordinance of *Parliament*, to send to Prison those who should publish and maintain, that *their Ministers were not true Ministers*. Hence proceeded the Imprisonment of *Edward Hinckes*, a poor Man, for speaking to the Priest of *Truro*: He was committed by the Mayor and another Justice there, who yet had so much Confidence in the Man's Integrity and Innocence, that they suffered him, while a Prisoner, to return Home and work for his Family.

John Ellis, for not putting off his Hat, when in Presence of two Justices, was by them sent to *Launceston* Goal, and kept twenty Weeks among suspected Felons, till the Assizes, and then fined twenty Marks for coming to the Bar with his Head covered.

ANNO 1659. *Tristram Clark* of *Stoke-Climsland*, suffered Distress to the Value of 4 l. for refusing to take an Oath at the Mannour Court there: And *William Hawkey* of *Truro*, was sent to Goal for refusing to take the Oath of Abjuration, tendered by two Justices on purpose to ensnare him.

About this Time more than twenty Persons, presented at Sessions for not going to the publick Worship, were imprisoned for refusing to find Sureties for their good Behaviour, which they always refused to do, not only because they knew their own Innocence, but because such Bonds would be but Weapons against them in their Enemies Hands, who would not fail to interpret their religious Meetings, which they thought themselves obliged to attend, as a Breach of the Peace.

On the 27th of the Month called *June* this Year, was a Meeting in the Borough of *Liskeard*, where a Multitude of rude People came in, halloeing, singing, railing, throwing Dirt, Stones, Mire, and filthy Excrements, on the Clothes, Heads, and Faces of those that were met, beating some with Clubs, others with their Fists, and breaking a Pitcher about the Head of *George Bewley*. One wicked Fellow sounded an hunting Horn, and raised a Cry of his Hounds, to drown the Voice of the Preacher. They threw *George Bewley* and others down a steep Hill on the Pavement; and while they were pulling the Hair off their Heads, and tearing the Clothes of *George Bewley*, the Priest, who sat smoking his Pipe in a Chamber Window, animated the Rabble, crying, *Hold him fast, keep him in, if his Brains be knocked out, he has his own seeking*. This Violence continued till some of the Persecuted were almost strangled and ready to faint. At length, some of them being let into an House, and secured

C O R N-
W A L L.
1657.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

Close Confinement of John
Ellis.

Imprisonments
for diverse
Causes.

Imprisonment
of 2 for not
Swearing,
and of 20 for
Absence from
the National
Worship.

Riotous Insults
at Liskeard.

C O R N-
W A L L.
1659.

The Case of
A. Upcott.

secured from the inferior Mob, (for some of the Rabble were Men of Figure, and one a Magistrate of the Town) the Tumult began to cease.

We are next to relate the remarkable Case of *Anne Upcot*, Daughter to the Priest of *Anstell*, who being convinced of the Truth, separated from the publick Worship, and testified against the vain Conversation of the Professors of those Times: This incensed her Father and three Brothers against her, so that they sought Occasion to prosecute her; a peculiar Instance of which is as follows, viz. On the First-day of the Week, as she was putting on her Clothes, she found her Waistcoat torn, and was mending it, when one of her Sisters came into the Room, she acquainted her Brother, who also was Constable, of it, he goes to a Justice, and gets a Warrant to bring her before him, who ordered her to pay 5s. for *Sabbath-breaking*, and authorized her Brother either to levy the same upon her Goods, or set her in the Stocks. The spiteful Brother took the rougher Course, and put her in the Stocks in a Time of much Rain, himself with his Father and Brothers being placed in a Window hard by, and from thence jeering and scoffing at her, and encouraging the Boys and other Rabble to abuse her, insomuch that some of the Neighbours wept to see their unnatural Usage of her: Which Cruelty of theirs affords this Observation, *that Men of ill Morals may be extremely superstitious.*

Distresses.

ANNO 1660. In this and the three foregoing Years were taken by Distress from sundry Persons in this County, for Demands of Tithes amounting to 10l. 9s. Goods worth 57l. 11s. 7d. And for Demands of 3l. 2s. 7d. for repairing the publick Worship-houses, Goods worth 7l. 19s. 6d.

Prosecution of
R. Tregennow.

In October this Year, *Richard Tregennow*, arrested for Tithes at the Suit of *James Forbes*, Priest, was cast into the Sheriff's Prison at *Bodmin*: While close Prisoner there, he was *subpœna'd* into the *Exchequer*, and for not appearing, a Writ of Rebellion was issued against him, by which he was taken from his House (whither he had Leave of his Keeper to go for a little Time in Harvest) and carried to the *Fleet* in *London*. After some Years Confinement there, he had Leave of the Warden to go and visit his Family, which Liberty his Adversary soon deprived him of by causing him to be arrested in a sham Action for 100l. and committed to the Sheriff's Prison in the Month called *May* 1664, where he lay, till the Priest's Attorney, by means of a false Return and other undue Practices, sued him to an Exigent and Outlawry, whereupon a Writ of Enquiry was executed, and his Estate of 40l. *per Annum* was seized, his Goods and Cattle distrained, and his Wife obliged to pay Rent for their own House, to prevent herself and ten Children from being turned out of Doors.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

John Ellis of *Pensance* Market, was taken by the Town-Serjeants, on a Judgment against him in the Hundred-Court for Tithes, and kept Prisoner several Years. And about the same Time, *Thomas Bant* of *Quilbioc* was sent to Prison for Tithes.

A Meeting at
Mabb broke
up by Soldiers.

On the 2d of *November* was a Meeting at *Mabb* near *Penryn*, whither a Serjeant with Soldiers came from *Pendennis* Castle, and using much ill Language, demanded the Names of the Persons present, which being given, under Pretence of searching for Letters, they rifled their Pockets, took away all their Money, (except one Groat) and several of their Clothes, and the Womens Aprons; and then carried them all to *Penryn*, and next Day to *Pendennis* Castle, where they were ordered to be put into the Dungeon.

Many impri-
soned for not
swearing.

Toward the latter End of this Year many were committed to Prison for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, which at that Time was generally tendered them, viz.

J. Stevens.

In *November*, *John Stevens* of *Boscastle*, who was sent for on purpose by two neighbouring Justices.

Arbitrary
Commitments
of many for
Meetings, and
refusing to
swear.

In the Month called *January*, *Nicholas Jose* passing through *Truro*, was by the Mayor sent to Prison. Also *Peter Towson*, as he was going about Business through *Bodmin*: And *Edward Witton*, taken by Soldiers out of his own House, and committed by the Mayor of *Pensance*: Likewise *Francis Hodge* and *Richard*

Richard Mills, who being observed in *Falmouth* Market with their Hats on; during the Reading of a Proclamation, were sent by the Governour of *Pen-dennis* Castle to the Mayor of *Penryn*, and by him to Prison: Also *Edward Angiers* and *John Kirton*, who being brought to the Sessions, for refusing the Oath of a Constable, were there again ensnared with the Oath of Allegiance. From a Meeting at her House was taken *Loveday Hambly*, with *John Rowett*, *Joseph Elliott*, *Philip Elliott*, *John Hambly*, *Hugh Reynolds*, *Drew Sweet*, *William Benny*, and *Peter Godfrey*: These were conveyed by an unnecessary Guard of two Constables and forty Assistants to the Justices, who tendred them the Oath: *George Whitford* and *Charles Appleby* of *Liskeard*, who were sent for to the County Court, and refusing to Swear, after a Week's Imprisonment there, were sent to *Launceston* Goal; as had been the Day before *William Hawkins*, taken standing at his own Door. On the same Day *George Read* an Apprentice, going to visit his Father, was taken by a Constable, and carried to a Justice, who tendred the Oath to him, and also to *Henry Keykes*, who had been taken out of his own House. *Samson Jeffery* and *John Martin* were taken on the Road by two Soldiers, and carried to the Mayor of *Penryn*, who after two Weeks Imprisonment there, tendred them the Oath, and sent them to *Launceston* Goal for refusing it. *Thomas Gibbons* was apprehended as he was visiting some Friends at *Stoke-Climfand*. *Richard Rider* and *Henry Ford*, taken out of their own Houses, and sent to Goal by the Mayor of *Marazion*; and *John Hodge* was also committed to Prison for the same Cause. At a Meeting at the House of *John Ellis* of *Just*, a Constable with about one Hundred Attendants, armed with Clubs and Staves, took *George Read*, *Tobias Read*, *John Read*, and *John Tomkin*, whom they carried before two Justices, who sent them to Goal. *Thomas Martin*, taken at a Meeting at *Austell*, was sent thence to Goal. Others were committed to the Marshall's Prison for refusing the Oath, viz. *George Hawkins*, *Tristram Clarke*, *Daniel Clark*, *Robert Hawkins*, *Elizabeth Collins*, *Thomas Badcock*, *Walter Hawkins*, *Samson Hawkins*, and *George Clark*, taken at a Meeting; also *Philip Dining*, after he had been kept two Days and two Nights in the Dark-house at *Launceston*: And *William Trethowan*, *John Trethowan*, *Ephraim Mills*, *John Tregennis*, *John Crowgie*, *Richard Cornish*, *Richard Moon*, and *Peter Odger*, taken out of Meetings at *Mabb*.

ANNO 1661. On the 25th of November this Year, *Thomasin Tregennis* Widow, was committed to Prison for not paying Tithes.

Imprisonments for Tithes.

ANNO 1662. In the Month called July, *Thomas Mounce* of *Liskeard*, was committed to *Launceston* Castle by a Warrant from two Justices, for not appearing in the Arch Deacon's Court in a Cause of Tithes. After two Years Imprisonment, Judge *Archer* at the Assizes, declared his Commitment to be illegal; yet, instead of discharging the poor Man, continued him in Prison for a Fine of 5*l.* then imposed on him for not putting off his Hat in Court.

T. Mounce's wrongful Imprisonment.

In September the same Year, *Edward Hancock* of *Minbennyatt*, by an Attachment out of the *Exchequer*, in a Case of Tithes, was sent to the Sheriff's Prison at *Bodmin*.

On the 27th of the Month called August, *Nicholas Jose*, *George Read*, *John Matthews*, *Samson Jeffery*, *Richard Hunt*, *Degory Vingoe*, *Jenkin Vingoe*, *John Tomkin*, *Joane Penwarden*, *Mary Penwarden*, *Jane Wilkey*, *Anne Trerowe*, and *Blanch Bristow*, with three others, were taken by Captain *Jones* and a Company of Soldiers, out of a Meeting at *Just*, and sent by a Justice to *Launceston* Goal: At the Assizes they were indicted on the Conventicle Act, and the first four fined 40*s.* each, and recommitted till Payment. Of the rest, who were acquitted, the Judge demanded Sureties for their good Behaviour, and upon Refusal returned them also to Prison, where they lay a long Time.

16 Sent to Prison,

and acquitted at the Assizes, yet recommitted.

ANNO 1663. In November this Year, were taken from *Loveday Hambly*, on an Execution for Demands of 18*s.* 4*d.* for Tithes, at the Suit of the Lord *Mobun* and *Katharine May* Impropropriators, Cattle and Horses to the Value of 103*l.* After which, the Bayliffs, pretending a Writ of Rebellion, broke open five Doors, and having taken her, and with much Incivility kept her all Night

Violent Prosecution of *L. Hambly* for Tithes.

CORN-
WALL.
1663.

Imprisonments
for Meeting.

Men and their
Wives impris-
oned for
Marrying.

Several im-
prisoned.

Major Robin-
son's persecut-
ing Disposition
and miserable
Death.

Oppression of
a Widow.

Execution for
Tithes.

Distress for
opening Shop.

in an Alehouse, carried her next Day to the Sheriff's Prison at Bodmin. And in the Month called *January* following, *Thomas Deeble* of *Quitbiack*, had taken from him on an Execution, at the Suit of one *Carey* a Priest, for Tithes, Cattle, Horses, and Sheep, worth 32*l.* Also about the same Time, *Henry Grubb* of *Stoke Climsland*, at the Suit of *William Pike*, Priest of that Parish, was committed to *Tremation Castle*, where he continued Prisoner several Years.

John Jenkin and *John Gilbert* were taken out of a Meeting at the House of *Richard Tregennis*, and sent to *Launceston Goal*: About a Week after, *Thomas Matthew* and *John Chapman*, with his Sons *John* and *Richard*, were for the same Cause sent to the same Place.

In this Year *Peter Townson* and *Jane* his Wife, and *Charles Appleby*, and *Mary* his Wife, were committed to Prison by the Mayor of *Liskeard*, for co-habiting, not being married according to the Method prescribed by the Liturgy of the Church; though it was well known, that they had taken each other in Marriage in a publick Assembly before many Witnesses of good Repute, who had signed a Testimonial thereof.

Elizabeth Hill, a Widow, of *Liskeard*, had her Goods taken by Distress for Absence from the Parish-Church. Also *Stephen Pawlin* of *Liskeard*, and his Sons, *Samson* and *Thomas*, were imprisoned for refusing Sureties for their good Behaviour, and had Goods taken away to the Value of 3*l.* 12*s.* for the Charge of carrying them to Goal.

Among the Magistrates in this County, one of the most noted for his fiery Zeal against the Quakers was Major *Robinson*, a Justice of the Peace and Member of Parliament. He had been active in sending many of them to Prison, and hearing that the Goaler had given some of them Leave at Times to go Home and visit their Families, he complained against him at the Affizes, and had him fined an Hundred Marks for his good Nature. It was this Man's Diversion to harrafs the Quakers, and the Disturbing their Meetings he sportively called *Fanatick-bunting*. The dismal Exit of this violent Persecutor was remarkable. Not long after that Affize wherein he got the Goaler fined for his Lenity to the Prisoners, he sent one Day to a Neighbouring Justice to go with him a *Fanatick-bunting*. On the Day appointed for that Sport, he ordered his Man to meet him with his Horse some Distance from his House: He then went into a Field, where he was used to play with a Bull, and fenced at him with his Staff as he was wont to do; but the Bull ran fiercely at him, struck his Horn into his Thigh, and so lifting him on his Horn, threw him over his Back, and tore up his Thigh to his Belly, and when he came to the Ground, he broke his Leg. The Bull then gored him again, and roared and licked up his Blood. Several Workmen came up, but could not beat off the Bull till they fetched Dogs to bait him. The Major's Sister hearing of this Disaster, came and said, *Alas, Brother, what an heavy Judgment is this!* He replied, *It is an heavy Judgment indeed.* He was carried Home and soon died. His tragical End was much remarked, and many were of Opinion, that the divine Justice was eminently conspicuous therein.

ANNO 1664. *Katharine Gay* of *Calstock*, Widow, at the Suit of the Priest of that Parish, for Tithes, had Goods taken from her by an Execution to the Value of 29*l.* Upon Enquiry into the Proceeding, it appeared that the Priest's Agent and Solicitor had entred a false Judgment, and illegally obtained an Execution. The Judgment, upon a Motion, was reversed, but no Restitution made to the Widow of her Goods wrongfully taken.

Thomas Mounce, at the Suit of *Hugh Ringwood*, Priest of *Broad oak*, had an Horse, Cattle, and Sheep, taken by an Execution, for Tithes, to the Value of 18*l.*

ANNO 1665. *Elizabeth Hill* of *Liskeard*, was fined by the Mayor for opening her Shop on the Day called *Christmasts-day*, and suffered Distress of Goods worth 30*s.*

ANNO

ANNO 1666. Observable in this Year were the arbitrary Doings of one *Pike*, Priest of *Stoke-Climsland*, who under Pretence of taking his Tithe, carried out of Men's Grounds what Quantities of Corn he pleased: From *Daniel Clarke* he took two Thirds of his whole Crop of Oats: From *George Hawkin* one fourth Part of his Wheat: He also with his Son's Assistance, beat the said *George Hawkin*, and *Samson* his Son, so cruelly, that they were disabled from working many Days after. The only Provocation to this Usage, was the Man's asking this Priest, *whether he were come to rob him?* at a Time when he took away the fifth Part of his Oats instead of the tenth.

ANNO 1667. In the Month called *June* this Year, we find *Richard Tregennis* continued a Prisoner in the Sheriff's Prison at *Bodmin*, where he had been confined six Years and eight Months, at the Suit of *James Forbes* Priest, for Tithes.

ANNO 1668. *Thomas Deeble* was committed to the Sheriff's Ward at *Bodmin*, for not paying Tithes, at the Suit of *Thomas Carew* Clerk, and continued there a long Time. In the same Year *George Whitford*, *Elizabeth Hill*, and *Rebecca Chapman*, were put into the Cage, and kept there seven Hours, for opening their Shops on the Day called *Christmass-day*, and for the same Cause *Samson Paulin*, and *Thomas Paulin*, were sent to Prison; also *John Tregennis* of *Falmouth*, who was continued under Confinement twenty two Days.

ANNO 1669. *Thomas Badcock*, being in his lawful Business, was, without any Provocation given, cruelly beaten by *John Pike*, Son of the Priest of *Stoke-Climsland*, so that he was for a Time thought to be dead, and lay sick above a Week after.

John Tregennis was imprisoned forty Days, for Tithes of 10s. Value, and afterward for the same Demand, had Goods taken in Execution worth 5l. 10s. at the Suit of *Francis Bedford*, a Priest of *Falmouth*.

John Scantlebury, *Stephen Richards*, and *Jane Trevation*, were imprisoned for opening their Shops on the Day called *Christmass-day*; as was also *Cyprian Shepherd* of *Penryn*.

ANNO 1670 and 1671. In these Years *Loveday Hambly*, a faithful and virtuous Woman, for her frequenting religious Meetings, which were often held at her House at *Tregangeeves*, suffered Distress of Goods at several Times, to the Value of 127l. 10s. 6d. Part of those Goods being the Property of *Thomas Lower*, he appealed to the Quarter Sessions, and got an Order for Restitution: But the Person who had wrongfully taken Possession of them evaded that Order, and never restored any of them. For the Preaching of *James Park* at some of those Meetings, and themselves being there, *Ambrose Grosse* had Goods taken from him to the Value of 20l. and *Henry Constable* to the Value of 19l. The principal Actors in these Prosecutions were *Degory Polwheel* a Justice of the Peace and his Clerk, *John May* and *William Allen* Constables, and one *Thomas Hodge*. All these were together visited with a long and tedious Sickness, which disabled them from molesting the Meetings for an Interval of about fifteen Months: During their Affliction they all seemed penitent for what they had done, but when recovered, returned (all except *Hodge*) like the Dog to his Vomit. *May*, a profane Wretch, when asked, *How he dare return so soon to a Practice he had seemed so sorry for*, answered, *Needs must when the Devil drives*. The Justice also encouraged him, saying, *he was a Servant to God and the King, and a Friend to the Poor*; though it was observed that the Poor had little of the Spoil. As for *Hodge*, he behaved afterward as a sincere Penitent.

For a Meeting at *Truro*, *Edmund Hinckes's* Doors were broke open, and all the Goods in his House, worth about 6l. taken away, the Officers having a special Warrant for so doing, by Virtue of which they raised the People in the Street, and commanded all Persons from sixteen to sixty Years of Age to assist them, as if they had been about some dangerous Enterprize. One *Avery* a Constable, in making this Distress, was struck with a Remorse of Conscience visible

CORN
WALL
1666.

Arbitrary Acts
of a rigid
Priest.

Long Imprisonment
of
R. Tregennis.

Imprisonments
for Tithes and
other Causes.

Appeal
evaded.

Sickness of
Informers.

Profane Answer
of an
Informant.

Remarkable
Seizure on
E. Hinckes.

C. O. R. N.
W A L L.
1670.

A Constable
fined.

Confession of
a Constable.
Cruelty of a
Constable and
Informers.

Distresses for
Meetings.

What befel a
Buyer of Dis-
tresses.

Seizures on
L. Hambly,
and others.

Seizure for
Tithes.

Discharge of
Prisoners.

Distresses for
Tithes,

and for refu-
sing to Swear.

visible in his Paleness and Trembling, acknowledging it to be the greatest Sin he ever did. But those Officers were sometimes over-awed by the Penalty of the Law, and the Threats of the Informers, to act against their Judgments; one *Stephen Rouse*, a Constable, having been fined, and his Cattle and Sheep seized, for Neglect of Duty in making Distresses. Another Constable, named *William James*, making a Distress on *William Hawkey*, to the Value of 8*l.* 10*s.* took among the rest, a Coat and Cloak from the poor Man's Back; but being shortly after taken sick, he acknowledged his Affliction to be a just Judgment upon him for persecuting the Innocent. At *Truro*, *Elizabeth Angier*, an ancient and feeble Woman, going up Stairs into the Meeting, was pulled down by a Constable, who dragged her along the Street, and set on the rude Boys to pelt her with Stones and Dirt. The Informers and others, threw *Hugh Reynolds* down on the Stones in the Dirt; and wantonly sported themselves by carrying him on their Shoulders like a dead Corps, and profanely crying, *Come let us sing a Psalm.*

John Tregennis of *Falmouth*, for permitting Meetings at his House, suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 29*l.* And divers other Persons, for Meetings there and at *Mabb*, had their Goods taken to the Value of 19*l.* 19*s.*

For Meetings held near the *Lands-End* in 1670, Distresses were made on *John Wallis*, *George Read*, *William Roberts*, and others, to the Value of 64*l.* 2*s.* and from *John Taylor* of *Marazion*, for being at a Meeting, Goods worth 2*l.* These Distresses were made upon the Information of *William Thomas*, Clerk to *Hugh Jones* a Justice of the Peace, who himself took Part of the Goods, which were carried to his House, and he obliged his Servants to take some of them for Wages. It was observed, that one of the Buyers of those Goods, had a Murrain suddenly fell among his Cattle, which swept many of them away in a little Time.

In the Year 1671 *Loveday Hambly* had three Mows of Corn seized by Bayliffs for *John May* Impropiator, which, together with the Waggon he carried them away upon, were esteemed worth 53*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* The Servants of the said Impropiator had taken from her in the foregoing Year, Cattle and Swine, to the Value of 23*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

Peter Towson and *George Whitford* of *Liskeard*, for Absence from the National Worship, had Goods taken from them to the Value of 9*s.* and *Charles Appleby* to the Value of 7*s.*

ANNO 1672. *John Scantlebury* of *Falmouth*, for a Demand of 20*s.* for Tithes, had taken from him by *Francis Bedford* Priest, Serge worth 3*l.* 16*s.*

In this Years were discharged out of Prison in this County, by Letters Patent from King *Charles the Second*, the following Persons, viz. *Nicholas Jose*, *Stephen Read*, *John Wallis*, *Thomas Richards*, *Richard Dennis*, *John Matthew*, *Thomas Tyack*, *John Ellis*, and *Laurence Growden*.

ANNO 1673. *Francis Hodge* of *Budock*, for not paying Tithes to *John Collier* Priest there, had taken from him a Cow worth 4*l.*

In this Year, for their Constancy in attending religious Assemblies, *Henry Williams*, a poor Man, had his Bed and Coat taken from him, also his Hatchet and Shovel, the Instruments with which he wrought for his Living, the Whole valued at 30*s.* Also *John Mabely*, a Weaver, had his Loom and Slays taken away, with a Bolster and Pillow, valued at 4*l.* 18*s.* Also from *Charles Peters*, *William Guy*, *Nicholas Emmatt*, and *Thomas Pascoe*, were Goods taken to the Value of 5*l.* 18*s.* Also for Meetings at *Minver*, from *Charles Peters* and *John Mabely*, Goods worth 4*l.* 4*s.*

From *John Tregellis*, for refusing to Swear, when chosen an Assistant for the Town of *Falmouth*, were taken Goods worth 1*l.* 10*s.* And from *Francis Gwin*, a Mare worth 5*l.*

Nicholas Jose, for refusing the Oath of Allegiance, was sent to Prison, but at the next Assizes freed by the Judge on Promise of appearing at the following Assizes.

ANNO

ANNO 1675. In the Month called *June* this Year, *John Read*, for refusing to pay to the Repairing of the publick Worship-house, was committed to Prison; and in the Month called *August* following, *John Jewell* of *Minbennyatt*, was for the same Cause committed to Prison by a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*.

C O R N.
W A L L.
1675.

Imprisonments
and Distresses.

John Tregellis of *Falmouth*, for 8s. 6d. demanded for Tithes, had Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 5l. 15s. 10d. Also *William Scantlebury* and *Mary Lillicrop*, suffered Distress of Goods for refusing to pay Tithes. And in the same Year *Thomas Deeble* was prosecuted at common Law by *Thomas Carew* Priest, and suffered a Seizure of his Goods to near 80l. Value; an Extent was also issued against a Tenement of his for ten Years Rent, worth 13l. per Annum: Beside all which he suffered Imprisonment about half a Year.

Variety of
Sufferings of
T. Deeble.

In *October* this Year, a Commission of Enquiry was executed at *Listwithiel*, in Relation to the Estates of some of this People, who, for not Swearing, had been convicted as *Popish* Recusants, on which Occasion *Thomas Salthouse* and others, presented the following Paper, intituled,

“ SOBER AND SEASONABLE ADVICE, submitted to the serious Consideration of the Commissioners and moderate Enquirers into the Estates and Conditions of Persons suspected of Recusancy.

“ R E M E M B E R the Counsel of our great Lawgiver, the Mediator of the new Covenant, *Whatsoever ye would that Men should do unto you, do ye even so unto them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.* Mat. vii. 12. It is said that several Persons are convicted as Recusants, and their Cause and Condition is to be enquired into by you at *Listwithiel* the 3d of *October* 1675.

A Paper presented to the Commissioners of Enquiry.

“ First. Consider that the Acts made and provided in that Case were really intended against *Popish* Recusants, and to prevent the Spreading and the Growth of *Popery*, and not against *Protestant* Dissenters; and that it is the Care of the present Parliament to put a Difference between *Popish* Recusants and *Protestant* Dissenters, and not to impose the Penalty and Severity of the Law upon such as are not *Papists*, nor *Popishly* affected.

“ Secondly. Consider that several eminent People called *Quakers*, are on the List among Persons under the supposed Conviction, who are neither *Papists*, nor any Way inclinable to *Popery*; for we do detest and utterly deny the *Pope's* Supremacy, *Crucifixes*, and *Images*, and *Transubstantiation* of Bread and Wine, the *Sacrament*, and all *Idolatry* and *Superstition*, Root and Branch, without any Equivocation or Reservation whatsoever, and therefore are not liable to the Penalty provided in that Case, being in our Hearts and Affections, Judgment and Persuasion, Members of the true Church, and of the Reformed Religion.

“ Thirdly. We were never admitted a legal Trial or Hearing, for we had no Summons, either by *Process*, *Proclamation*, or otherwise, whereby we might have pleaded to the *Indictment*, which is allowed the worst of *Englishmen* in Causes more desperate and of dangerous Consequence; neither do we know our Accusers, or who are Witnesses against us in this Matter: All which we submit to your serious Consideration, minding you of that often mentioned Maxim, that no free-born Englishman ought to be infringed of his Liberty, or disseized of his Freehold Estate, but by a legal Trial of his Neighbours.

“ Fourthly. Enquire whether of late Years in this Nation there have been any Returns made, either of *Popish* Recusants, or *Protestant* Dissenters, convicted of Recusancy, or liable to the Penalties of the Laws made in that Case.

“ Fifthly. Remember the Days past, in which some of you also suffered with us as Dissenters, and that we have been an oppressed, persecuted People, both by Bonds, Imprisonments, and the spoiling of our Goods, for our

G O R N. " Religion and Righteousness, and yet nothing can be laid justly to our Charge,
W A L L. " as a Transgression, except the Law and Worship of our God.
1675. " These Things seriously considered and weighed in the Ballance of Equity,
" by the choicest Men of the best Reformed Christian Religion, may, we hope,
" prevail with you, to make the best Construction of Things disputable,
" and not to contribute Assistance towards the future Sufferings of your lov-
" ing Friends, who are reproached by the Name of Quakers.

T. Saltbouse

Laurence Crowden

J. Rowel

Richard Tregennow

Seasonable
Advice.

This Advice was indeed seasonable, and the Commissioners seemed to take the Matter therein contained into Consideration, for our Accounts do not mention many in this County to have been at that Time returned into the Exchequer as Popish Recusants.

Long Imprison-
ments.

ANNO 1676. In the Month called January this Year, Thomas Tyack was sent to Prison for Tithe, and continued a Prisoner above eight Years. In the Month called July this Year, Nicholas Emmatt of Endellian Parish, for absenting from the National Worship, was committed to the Sheriff's Prison, where he was continuing four Years after.

E. Angier's
Death in Pri-
son.

In this Year also died a Prisoner Edward Angier of Minver, after near thirteen Months Confinement, for not paying to the Repairs of the publick Worship Houses.

Death of J.
Wallis, Pri-
soner for
Tithes.

ANNO 1677. In November this Year, John Wallis died a Prisoner after several Years Confinement for Tithes of about 3 l. in Value: And in the same Year Francis Gwyn, Stephen Richards, and Thomas Trigg, were also imprisoned for Tithes.

Fines for
Meetings, &c.

Also George Read, for Tithes of 30 s. Value, suffered Distress of Goods worth 5 l. In this Year also for meeting together to worship God, Loveday Hambly and Ambrose Grosse had Goods taken from them worth 26 l. and several others for the same Cause suffered by Distress to the Value of 48 l. 12 s. 9 d. Also William Oliver, for Absence from the National Worship, was imprisoned in the Month called April this Year, and continued a Prisoner about eight Years after. For the same Cause John Jewel of Minbennyat, and Thomas Paulin of Liskheard, were imprisoned on Writs de Excommunicato capiendo.

Distresses.

In the Month called January this Year, Thomas Deeble died a Prisoner, after about sixteen Months Imprisonment for Absence from the National Worship.

ANNO 1678. Nicholas Jose, for Tithes worth 5 s. 6 d. had Goods taken from him to the Value of 2 l. 8 s. 6 d. and George Read, for Tithes of 30 s. Value, suffered Distress of Goods worth 7 l. The same Nicholas Jose had also his Goods taken by an Execution to the Value of 13 l. at the Suit of Hugh Jones a Tithe-farmer, who sued him in the Hundred Court for Tithes of about 1 l. 3 s. 4 d. in Value.

Excommuni-
cations.
Long Imprison-
ments.

About this Time many were excommunicated for Absence from the National Worship, some of whom were Thomas Mounce, Stephen Pearson, Samson Paulin, Elizabeth Hill, John Chapman, Edward Hancock, Margaret Gill, John Kirlon, and Katharine Gay. In this Year also William Scantlebury, Richard Samble, Mary Lillicrop, and Francis Gwyn, suffered Distress, for Absence from the National Worship, to the Value of 3 l. 3 s. 4 d. Also William Way, after a Prosecution in the Archdeacon's Court for refusing to go to the publick Worship, was committed to the Sheriff's Ward, where he continued Prisoner about seven Years. Also in this and the foregoing Years, Ambrose Grosse had Cattle and other Goods taken from him by the Sheriff's Bayliffs on an Exchequer Process, to the Value of 7 l. 10 s. In this Year also William Tregbowan was continuing a Prisoner in the Sheriff's Ward, whither he had been committed for Tithes about three Years before.

J. Crowdgy.

ANNO 1680. In this Year John Crowdgy was returned into the Exchequer as a Popish Recusant, and under Pretence of a Forfeiture of two Thirds of his

his freehold Estate, though he had none but Leasehold, had Goods taken from him by the Sheriff's Order, to the Value of 5*l*.

For being at a Meeting at *Minver* in September this Year, was taken from *John Peters* a Cow worth 4*l*. and from *Samson Coysgarne* a Mare worth 10*l*. Also from *Nicholas Emmott* a poor Man, his Household Goods; and so unmerciful were the Informers, as to take away from his Wife, then sick and sitting by the Fire, the Chair from under her, she having no other to sit on. From *Henry Williams* they took a Mow of Wheat worth 5*l*. and sold it for 20*s*. When one of the Informers, with a Constable, came to the House of *Anne Hender* a poor Widow, they found her Door fast, she being from Home, they sculked about till she came and opened the Door, when they pushed in with her, and took away all her Goods, leaving her nothing to lie on but the bare Boards, nor any Thing to cover her from the Cold. In the next Month the Constable and Informers came again to the Meeting there, and said, they seized the House in the King's Name, put a Padlock on the Door, and kept the House shut up, to prevent any future Meeting in it.

CORN
WALL.
1680.

Distresses for
Meetings.
Cruelty of In-
formers.

Meeting-house
seized.

Fines.

Burial of B.
Growden.

Preaching of
T. Salthouse
there.

Many fined
for being at
that Funeral.

Besides these, many others were fined for their religious Meetings; of whom was *Samson Coysgarne* fined at several Times 75*l*. and *Grace Grey* 20*l*. for suffering a Meeting at her House.

ANNO 1681. On the 8th of the Month called February this Year, was buried at *Tregangreves* one *Benjamin Growden*, a Man well beloved by his Neighbours, who being many of them present at his Funeral, *Thomas Salthouse* spake to them by way of Exhortation to this Purpose: "Seriousness and Sobriety is suitable and seasonable on this Occasion. I have no Authority from Men to accommodate this Concourse of People with Excellency of Speech as an eloquent Orator, nor with enticing Words that Man's Wisdom teaches; Yet to the Living, there is a Necessity upon, and a few Words in, my Heart in Tenderness and Fear to offer, under Consideration of our Mortality, and also of Eternity which is set before us; *All Flesh is as Grass, and all the Glory of Man is as the Flower of Grass. Now the Grass withers, and the Flower fades away, but the Word of the Lord endures for ever.* All must appear before the Judgment-seat of Christ, to give an Account of the Deeds done in the Body, whether they be good or evil, and every one must certainly receive a Reward according to his Works: Therefore remember thy Creator in the Days of thy Youth, while the evil Days come not, nor the Years draw nigh, in which thou shalt say, *I have no Pleasure in them:* Then will they be blessed who die the Death of the Righteous, for in every Nation they that fear God and work Righteousness are accepted, and this was evident to, and observed by him that was an Opposer of Israel, in whom God beheld no Iniquity: He took up his Parable and said, *O let me die the Death of the Righteous, and let my last End be like his.*" More was spoke to the like Effect with Tears and much Tenderness, in the open Burying Place at *Tregangreves*, in the Audience of many good Christians and loyal Subjects to the King, and Professors of the Protestant Religion as by Law established. On such an Occasion, and to such an Assembly, one would scarce have thought, the speaking by way of Remembrance of their Mortality, and to excite them to prepare for Death, could have been liable to the Penalties of any Law: But there were some Persons wicked enough to make an unlawful Conventicle, of this humane, Christian, and decent Solemnity. Upon the Oaths of *Thomas Whale* and *William Comyn*, Informers, a Warrant was granted against *Anne Salthouse*, *John Trefry*, and *Joane* his Wife, *Laurence Growden*, *Joseph Growden*, and *Elizabeth* his Wife, *Joseph Vivian*, *Ellinor* the Wife of *Nicholas Biggs*, *David Thomas*, *Samuel Horney*, *Samuel Bennett*, *John Heady*, *John Killegarne*, *John* the Son of *Richard Giles*, *William Nichols*, *Matthew Bennet*, and *Thomas Salthouse*, to appear before the Justices to shew Cause why they should not be convicted according to the Act. They appeared at the Time and Place appointed before *Sir Joseph Tredenham*, *Joseph Sawle*, and *William Adobun*, Justices. But when they came, were told that the Convictions were already

C O R N -
W A L L .
1682.

Long Imprison-
ments.

N. Jose sent
to Prison.

His Mitimus.

Distresses for
Meeting at
Minver.

Distresses for
Tithes, &c.

already made, and that *Thomas Salbouse* was fined 20*l.* for Preaching: For that Fine he had shortly after taken out of his Shop, Goods worth 29*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* Also *Joseph Growden*, for being at the said Funeral, had his Goods taken away to the Value of 1*l.* 5*s.*

ANNO 1682. *Walter Stevens* had been a Prisoner in this County for Tithes, three Years and three Months, and *Thomas Tyack*, who had been then Prisoner above fifteen Months, continued so several Years after. *Samuel Hancock* was the same Year prosecuted in the *Exchequer* for Tithes.

On the 30th of the Month called *April* this Year, *Hugh Jones* a Justice of the Peace, with *John Weeks* Priest, and a Rabble attending them, broke up a Meeting at *Sennyn*, and fined many of the Persons present; he also sent *Nicholas Jose* to Prison by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

“ To the Keeper of his Majesty’s Goal at the Castle of Launceston,
“ or to his Deputy or Deputies there.

“ W H E R E A S *Nicholas Jose*, of the Parish of *Sennyn*, was this Day brought before me, for being found amongst diverse others in an unlawful Assembly in a private House in the said Parish, and there seen to my View, being thereupon to find Sureties for the good Behaviour, he being formerly, and, I think, still remains, a Teacher and Leader of diverse Dissenters from the Church, and one who denies the taking of an Oath in any Case whatsoever to be lawful, and refusing to give Sureties for his good Behaviour.

“ I these are therefore in his Majesty’s Name to charge and command you, and every of you, to receive the said *Nicholas Jose*, herewith sent, into your Custody, and him safely to keep and detain in your said Goal, until he shall be thence delivered by due Course of Law, and thereof fail not at your Peril. Given under my Hand and Seal at *Penrose* this first Day of *May*, Anno regni Dni. nri. *Caroli secundi*, nunc *Regis Angliæ*, &c. tricesimo quarto, Annoq; Dom. 1682.

“ HUGH JONES. (L. S.)”

For meeting together at *Minver*, Justice *Ceely* granted a Warrant for Distress, by which was taken as follows, viz. from

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
<i>Edward Rowe</i> , wearing Apparel and other Goods, worth	2	10	0
* <i>Henry Williams</i> , Household Goods worth	0	13	0
<i>Thomas Coates</i> of <i>Green-Hammerton</i> , Goods worth	0	10	0
<i>Abraham Hawkes</i> of <i>Whixley</i> , Husbandman, Pewter to the Value of	0	9	0
	4	2	0

The same Justice laid a Fine of 10*l.* on *Priscilla Peters*, and granted a Warrant to levy it on the Goods of *Charles Peters* her Husband: But when he appealed to the Sessions, the Justice ordered the Goods to be returned, lest his own illegal Proceeding should be exposed, for the Law did not admit the imposing such a Fine on a *feme Covert*.

ANNO 1683. *John Scantlebury* of *Falmouth*, for 32 *s.* demanded by *Walter Quaram* Priest, for his Wages, had Goods taken away to the Value of 4*l.* And *Francis Hodges* suffered Distress to the Value of 3*l.* 9*s.* for Tithes demanded by *John Collier* Priest of *Penryn*.

On the 31st of the Month called *May* this Year, *Richard Tregennow* of *Trenant*, in the Parish of *Dewlo*, for a Meeting at his House, had Sheep, Cows,

* *Henry Williams* was a poor Labourer, whose Door they broke open while he was abroad at Work.

CHAP. 8. of the People called QUAKERS.

125

Cows, and Oxen taken from him to the Value of 40*l*. The same Person in the same Year, for Fines for his own, his Wife's and Daughters Absence from the publick Worship, had Goods taken from him worth 3*l*. For the same Cause also *John Clements*, *Philippa Peake*, and *Jane Peake*, suffered Distress of their Goods.

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1683.

In the same Year *Isaac Chappell*, *John Tomkins*, *Richard Richards*, *John Matthew*, *Joane Olivey* and *Wilmot Richards*, taken at a Meeting, were sent to Goal by *Hugh Jones* Justice, under Pretence that they had no Goods to make Distress on: They were discharged by Judge *Jefferies* at *Launceston* Assizes. *Jenkin Vingoe*, and *Samson Olivey*, were also imprisoned for frequenting religious Meetings.

Imprisonments
for Meeting.

In this Year also many Persons in this County were taken from their Houses and Employments, and carried before the Justices, who tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and on Refusal to take it, sent them to Prison. At the Assizes held in the Month called *August*, their Case drawn up and signed by twenty one of them, was presented to the Judge of Assize, being as follows, viz.

Commitments
for not Swear-
ing.

" *The suffering Case of the People called QUAKERS in the County of*
" *Cornwall, humbly presented to the Consideration of the Judges,*
" *and in particular to Sir JOB CHARLETON, Judge of the Crown*
" *Bench for this Assizes.*

" **W**HEREAS it hath been evidently known and manifested, that
" notwithstanding the many grievous Sufferings that we have patiently
" undergone for more than twenty Years past, merely for the Discharge of
" our Consciences to God, and for our refusing to Swear at all, as Christ Jesus
" our Lord, and the Apostle *James* commanded and enjoined, and that we
" have still deputed ourselves in all Humility and Lowliness of Heart and
" Mind, and have peaceably born all the various Sufferings that have been
" inflicted upon us for the Discharge of our Consciences and Duty as aforesaid;
" and have never been known to have raised any Insurrection, or been confe-
" derate with any evil Plotters or Contrivers of Mischief, either against the
" King or Government; but have always used our Endeavours, as much as
" in us lies, to have Peace with all Men: Yet have we been exposed as well
" to the Laws not made or intended against us, as to those Laws made and in-
" tended against us, and are rendred obnoxious to the Government, when in
" Truth our Principles have all along led us to live peaceably under the Go-
" vernment, and to offer Violence to none, but rather to suffer, than to dis-
" obey the Command of Christ Jesus, and the Doctrine of the Apostle afore-
" said, who enjoined the Believers *above all Things not to Swear*: And for
" such our Refusal to Swear are we, whose Names are hereunto subscribed,
" sent to the County Goal. Some of whom being Fishermen, are taken from
" their motherless Children, whose Support and Maintenance depended mostly
" upon the Industry and Labour of their poor aged Fathers: Others from
" their looking after and carrying on of their Adventures in Tin-works,
" (which are considerable :) Others from their Labour in and about getting in
" their Harvest: Others from looking after and attending their Shop-keeping
" and Trades; and one of us, (by Name *Thomas Lower*) being come down
" lately out of *Lancashire*, into this his native Country, to look after and settle
" an Estate fallen into his Hands in this County, is ensnared with the Tender
" of the Oath aforesaid, and sent to this Goal, and thereby incapacitated to
" perfect a Contract lately made with his Landlord *Sir Richard Edgewcomb*, of
" an Estate for Lives in this County, and also from returning to his Wife and
" Children in the North, as he thought shortly to have done: And some
" poor Women, aged upward of fifty or sixty Years, after their Beds and
" other Household Goods, and their very working Tools, by which they got
" their Livelihood, were distrained and taken from them, for their Absence
" from

Suffering Case
of the People
called Qua-
kers presented
at the Assizes.

C O R N
W A L L
1683.

“ from the publick Places of Worship, were, together with three other young
“ Maidens, being Sisters, tendred the Oath of Allegiance, and for this their
“ Refusal, are also sent to the County Goal. All which Sufferings and
“ Grievances we desire you would be pleased to take into your serious Conside-
“ ration, and not to impose the Rigour of the Law upon us, who are con-
“ scientiously concerned to keep the Command of Christ Jesus as aforesaid,
“ and do really own Allegiance to the King, and Subjection to his Govern-
“ ment, hoping, that Mercy, as well as Judgment, may run down your Streets
“ of Judicature, and that we may be encouraged to persevere in our Christian
“ Practice and Duty of praying for the King, and all such as are in Authority,
“ that we may have Liberty to labour in the Creation in our several Callings and
“ Habitations, which is the earnest Desire of us, who are Prisoners for the
“ Testimony of a good Conscience.

Lannceston Goal, the 1st of the
Month called August, 1683.

Signed by

Thomas Lower

Thomas Saltbouse

John Peters

Nicholas Jose

John Elliott

John Fleming

John Simmons

John Trefry

Peter Rogers

John Colley

Jacob Colley

Peter Godfrey

Christopher Soper

Mary Clement

Katharine Clement

Philippa Peake

Jane Peake

Dorothy Rogers

Mary Tregennow

Jane Tregennow

Gertruydt Tregennow.

Wanton Rude-
ness of Pro-
secutors.
Indictment.

Sentence of
Premunire.

Death of C.
Soper.
Release of
Prisoners.

Distresses for
refusing to
bear Arms.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

The three last mentioned were Daughters of Richard Tregennow, who were taken by Force from their Father's House, and carried before the Justices, who tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and sent them to Prison. Those who conducted them thither treated them with much Rudeness and Insolence: They afterward procured a Warrant from Sir Jonathan Trelawney, &c. for seizing their Father's Goods for their Fines, and for the Charges of conveying them to Prison, and in a Way of wanton Ridicule, made a Charge in their Account, for rowing the Quakers to Prison.

But notwithstanding the foregoing just Representation of the Prisoners Case, they were indicted at the Assizes, where the Oath was again tendred them in open Court, and on Conviction of refusing it, they had Sentence of Premunire passed upon them, and were all remanded to Prison; though two of them, viz. Mary Clement and Dorothy Rogers, were married Women, and therefore the Sentence against them was illegal. One of them, Christopher Soper, died in Prison.

ANNO 1686. The other twenty of the said Subscribers, after having lain close confined about three Years, were discharged by King James's general Pardon: Beside whom, John Gay, William Way, William Olivey, Edward Guy, Daniel Clark, Walter Stevens, and Elizabeth Whitford, imprisoned on Writs de Excommunicata capiendo, were by the same Means set at Liberty. Nicholas Emmott died under Sentence of Premunire in the Prison.

ANNO 1688. In this Year the following Persons, for refusing to bear Arms, or contribute to the Charge of the County Militia, suffered Distress, by which were taken

From Richard Tregennow, for 13d. Demand, Goods worth	1	15	0
Samuel Hancock, for 28 s. Demand, Goods worth	3	5	0
John Tregellis of Falmouth, Goods worth	0	14	0
Stephen Richards of the same, Cloth worth	1	0	2
Edward Beaking of Penryn, Goods worth	4	0	0
John Scanlebury, Goods worth	2	4	0

ANNO 1690. Samuel Hancock was committed to the Sheriff's Ward at Bodmin, for Tithes, at the Suit of William Bustard Impropiator.

C H A P.

CUMBER-
LAND.
1653.

C H A P. IX.

CUMBERLAND.

ANNO 1653.

GEORGE FOX, for preaching the Truth in the great Worship-house at Carlisle, after the Priest had ended his Sermon, and for witnessing a good Confession before the Magistrates and People there, was imprisoned seven Weeks, sometimes among Thieves and Murderers.

G. Fox imprisoned.

Robert Withers, for asking the Priest of Aketon a religious Question after Sermon, was imprisoned at Carlisle one Month; as was George Bewly for accompanying him. Robert Huntington, for Preaching at Carlisle, was imprisoned three Months, and James Noble, for the same Cause, nine Weeks.

Sundry others imprisoned.

Robert Withers, Thomas Rawlinson, John Stubbs, and Thomas Gwin, for declaring against false Worship at the Steeple-house in Coldbeck, were inhumanly treated by the rude People, one of them being knocked down, and much of their Blood spilled on the Place.

John Martin, for testifying against the Priest of Kirkbride, whom he met in the Fields, and calling him by his proper Name, viz. an Hireling, was committed to Prison.

ANNO 1654. Thomas Stubbs was concerned to go into the Steeple-house at Deane, where, when the Priest had done, he said, *Thou daubest the People up with untempered Mortar*; whereupon the Priest bid his Hearers fight for the Gospel; they fell violently upon Stubbs and some of his Friends, tore their Clothes, and beat them cruelly. The Priest's Son in particular sorely bruised the Face of Richard Richardson. After which two Justices sent Stubbs to Prison, but conscious of the Wrong they did him, writ his *Mittimus* and *Discharge* both on one Paper; this furnished the Goaler with a Claim for Fees, under Pretence of which he kept him fourteen Weeks in Prison.

T. Stubbs abused.

Peter Head, for testifying to the Truth, in the same Place, was imprisoned fourteen Weeks in a close Room among Felons in the Heat of Summer; and John Head, for delivering some Queries to the Priest of Deane at his own House, was imprisoned fourteen Weeks. John Slee, for reprovng a Priest at Grisdale, was kept a close Prisoner among Felons two Months. Also Katharine Fell, for asking a Priest, whether he did witness what he spake to the People, was kept in Prison nineteen Weeks, having a young Child sucking at her Breast.

Imprisonment of P. Head and others.

Thomas Bewley and Hugh Stamper, standing at the Sessions in Carlisle with their Hats on, were by the Justices committed to Prison without any legal Cause assigned. After a Month's Confinement they were discharged without paying Fees: But Hugh Stamper was afterward arrested for Fees, and again imprisoned and detained there one and twenty Weeks.

ANNO 1655. Matthew Carpe and Anthony Fell were imprisoned for appearing at Sessions with their Hats on, and detained three Weeks.

Imprisonments for sundry Cause.

Matthew Robinson and John Dixon, for refusing to pay Tithes, were imprisoned at Carlisle, and afterward obliged to appear personally at London, above two Hundred and fifty Miles from their Habitations, to their great Expence and Trouble.

John Peacock and John Stricket Constables, refusing to execute a Warrant of Distress for Tithes, were fined 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* and for Non-payment committed to Prison.

Dorothy

CUMBER-
LAND.

1655.

Cruel Usage of
two Women.Beating of
two Men.Imprison-
ments.Distress for
Tithes, &c.Many Imprison-
ments for not
Swearing.Imprisonments
and Distresses.Tithes reco-
vered at a Pa-
pist's Suit.

Dorothy Waugh, for Preaching in the Streets of *Carlisle*, and *Anne Robinson*, who accompanied her, were by the Mayor sent to Prison, and some Time after were led through the Street with each an Iron Instrument of Torture, called a Bridle, on their Heads, to prevent their speaking to the People; having been so exposed to the Scorn and Derision of the Rabble, they were turned out of the City.

John Westray and *Thomas Scott* were cruelly beaten by the rude People, for testifying against the Doctrine of the Preacher at *Seck-Murder Chapel*.

ANNO 1657. The following Persons were imprisoned at *Carlisle* for re-
proving the Priests at several Times and Places, viz. *John Grave* twenty two
Weeks, *George Bewley* fourteen Weeks, *John Burnyeat* twenty three Weeks,
Matthew Robinson twenty nine Weeks, *Anthony Tickle* twenty seven Weeks, and
George Wilson.

ANNO 1660. In this and the several foregoing Years had been taken
from Persons in this County by Distress, for 156*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* demanded for
Tithes, Goods worth 515*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* And for Demands of 3*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* for
Steeple-house Rates and Clerk's Wages, Goods to the Value of 11*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*
In this Year also *Francis Hayton* and *William Rowland* were imprisoned for
Tithes thirty two Weeks.

John Robinson, for refusing to take an Oath at *Carlisle* Assizes, was fined 40*s.*
and had Goods taken from him to that Value.

In the same Year *Thomas Stordy* was imprisoned nine Weeks for refusing to
take the Oath of Allegiance; and for the same Cause *James Adamson* was kept
close Prisoner several Weeks, during which Time, his Father, of the same
Name, coming to visit him, was way-laid in his Return home, and by a Justice
of the Peace sent back to Prison for refusing to Swear. For the same Cause
also *Elizabeth Heath*, *Anne Bewley*, *Elizabeth Jackson*, *Elizabeth Hazard*, *Wil-
liam Ogletborp*, *Anne* his Wite, *Isabel Ogletborp*, and *Elizabeth Watson*, suffered
twenty two Weeks Imprisonment: Also *Thomas Summers*, *William Summers*,
Humphry Twiddale, and *Thomas Story*, were imprisoned fourteen Weeks, and
* *William Lowthwait* one and thirty Weeks; *Thomas Watson*, *Richard Ribton*,
Christopher Manser, *Richard Banks*, and *Thomas Leathes*, nine Days; *John
Matthew of Brough*, several Weeks; and *Robert Huntington*, *John Robinson*,
Robert Matthew, and *Margaret Martin*, twenty two Weeks, which last four
were taken up in *Carlisle* Market, being there about their lawful Occasions,
and sent to Goal by the Mayor for refusing the Oath.

ANNO 1661. *John Nicholson*, *Thomas Mark*, and *John Peacock*, on an
Attachment out of the *Exchequer*, were committed to *Carlisle* Goal in the
Month called *April* this Year, and detained there about three Years.

In this Year also *George Biglands* and *John Dobinson* suffered eight Weeks Im-
prisonment for refusing to Swear; and for the same Cause *Christopher Manser*
had a Cow taken from him worth 2*l.* 4*s.* and *Christopher Birkett* a Cow
worth 3*l.*

ANNO 1662. In this Year *Adam Robinson*, *William Bond*, and *John Rich-
ardson*, suffered about seven Months Imprisonment, having been arrested for
Tithes at the Suit of *Francis Howard* of *Corby*, a *Papist*, who afterward at
the Assizes obtained Judgment against them for treble Damages, upon which
were taken from

	l.	s.	d.		l.	s.	d.
<i>Adam Robinson</i> , for a Demand of	1	5	0	four Beasts worth	28	0	0
<i>William Bond</i> , for a Demand of	0	7	0	a Mare and Steer	3	15	0
<i>John Richardson</i> , for a Demand of	1	12	0	Cattle worth	7	10	0
For Demands of	3	4	0	Goods worth	39	5	0
							In

* *W. Lowthwait* had offended a Neighbouring Justice's Servant by reproving him for pro-
fane Swearing; whereupon the Justice, to avenge his Man's Quarrel, tendred *William* the
Oath, and sent him to Prison.

In this Year also, for refusing to Swear at the Mannour Courts, were taken from

CUMBER-
LAND.
1662.

	l.	s.	d.		l.	s.	d.
Richard Thompson, for a Fine of	3	6	8	a Cow worth	3	0	0
Francis Hayton, for a Fine of	0	3	4	Goods worth	0	8	0
Thomas Hunter, for a Fine of	3	6	8	Kine worth	6	0	0
For Fines of	6	16	8	Goods worth	9	8	0

Fines for not
Swearing.

Thomas Stordy, being at Carlisle Assizes, went to visit some of his Friends there in Prison, but was illegally detained by the Goaler, and the next Day, he, with Stephen Pearson, then a Prisoner, was had to the Sessions-house, where the Oath of Allegiance was tendred them, which they refusing, were sent back to Goal among the Felons: Next Day they were indicted on the Statute of 3 K. James, found guilty, and had Sentence of *Premunire* passed upon them; by which they were adjudged to forfeit all their Lands, Goods, and Chattels, to be out of the King's Protection, and to suffer Imprisonment for Life. Soon after the Sheriff seized their Cattle, Corn, and other Goods, and proclaimed a publick Sale of them; at which they were sold far beneath the Value, in regard very few cared to buy them. However they were at length disposed of and carried away, without any Regard to the Prisoners or their Families, nor would the Sheriff, though earnestly desired, allow any thing to the poor Labourers, who had been employed in gathering in the Corn, and whom the Prisoners, thus plundered, were unable to pay. Under this hard Sentence Thomas Stordy and Stephen Pearson continued close Prisoners several Years, enduring their great Sufferings with exemplary Patience and Constancy, being supported by the Testimony of a good Conscience in their Obedience to the Precept of Christ, *Swear not at all.*

Imprisonments
for refusing
the Oath.

Patience of
the Sufferers.

John Grave of Turpenhow, Thomas Watson of Cockermouth, and John Robinson of Brigham, taken out of their own Houses by Soldiers and carried to the Governour of Carlisle, were by him imprisoned, in the Depth of Winter, in a cold Place over one of the City Gates, where they were denied the Visits of their Friends, and had their Food frequently kept from them, nor were they permitted to go out to ease themselves: After about ten Days Confinement there, the Oath was tendred them at a Meeting of the Justices, and they were removed to the County Goal, where they lay thirty five Weeks. In the same Year John Slee had two Steers worth 9*l.* taken from him for a Fine of 5*l.* for being at a Meeting; and on the 7th of the Month called August, Richard Ribton, William Ribton, and Thomas Ashley, of Great-Broughton, Christopher Shepherd and John Shepherd of Ribton, Christopher Palmer and William Hall of Little-Broughton, John Parker of Pop-Castle, and Launcelot Wilson of Tallontire, were summoned before the Justices on an Information against them for Meeting, and sent to Prison till the Assizes, when they were indicted, and having pleaded *not guilty*, were recommitted till another Assizes, before which Lancelot Wilson died in the Prison, being a weakly Man, and unable to sustain the Hardship of his Confinement. At the following Assizes the rest of them were discharged. In this Year also George Fletcher, a Justice of the Peace, signalized himself by a violent Procedure at a Meeting at Howbill in Sowerby Parish, into which he, with a Retinue armed with Swords and Pistols, rushed in after an hostile Manner, and finding a Person on his Knees, the Justice struck him over the Head, and when he continued Praying, ordered him to be pulled down backward, and then caused him, together with John Slee, George Bewley, Mungo Bewley, Anthony Fell, John Banks, and others of the Assembly, to be dragged down the Hill in a violent and cruel Manner, and afterward sent them to Carlisle Goal. At the next Sessions John Slee was fined 10*l.* and the rest 5*l.* each, for which Fines were taken from John Slee, three Kine, one Bull, and an Heifer, worth 13*l.* from George Bewley, three Kine worth 8*l.* and from Mungo Bewley, two Horses worth 5*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* At the Time of making these Distresses George Bewley was remaining a Prisoner for the same Fine.

Hard Impri-
sonments.

Many impri-
soned for
Meeting.

Death of
L. Wilson.

Violence of
Justice
Fletcher.

Fines.

CUMBER-
LAND.
1663.

Long Imprison-
ments.
Seizures for
Tithes.

Exchequer
Process for
frivolous De-
mands.

Imprisonments
by Writs de
Excom. Cap.

Rigorous Ex-
action of
Fines.

R. Banks
fined.

The suffering
Case of R.
Banks.

ANNO 1663. *Thomas Bewley*, after frequent Seizures of his Goods for Tithes, was this Year, on an *Exchequer* Process, committed to Prison at *Carlisle*, where he lay near three Years. In this Year also Seizures were made on *James Stanton of Westdale*, to the Value of 27*l.* and upwards, for a Demand of but 3*l.* for Tithes; and on *Thomas Bewley* the younger, to the Value of 11*l.* for a Claim of 2*l.* 18*s.* for Tithes. And in the same Year for Demands of 10*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* for Tithes, several others had Goods taken by Distress, to the Value of 30*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* In this Year also suffered by Distress, for refusing to Swear, *Richard Fawcett* 1*l.* 12*s.* *Philip Burnyeat* 20*s.* *Henry Allason* 50*s.* and *William Morrison* 40*s.* Also *Thomas Fell*, *John Fell*, *James Barnes*, and *John Tiffin*, were Sufferers by Distress on the same Account.

ANNO 1664. *Richard Fawcett*, *John Gill*, *William Richardson*, and *John Fearon*, were prosecuted in the *Exchequer* by *George Fletcher*, for Tithes; the Claim he made from some of them was but 6*d.* and from none of them above 1*s.* for which Trifles some of them were obliged by the Prosecutor to appear several Times at *London*, two Hundred and fifty Miles from their Habitations: His Purpose being not so much to recover any Thing, as to perplex and harass the poor Men, who at length were imprisoned at *Carlisle* for refusing to Swear to the Answers they gave into Court. For the same Reason also *William Bowman*, *William Morrison*, and *John Fell*, were sent to Prison. In this Year likewise were imprisoned upon Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*, after Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes, *Hugh Tickell*, *Anthony Tickell*, *John Wilson*, *Anthony Wood*, *Christopher Scott*, *William Longstake*, *Thomas Stamper*, *Thomas Porter*, *John Pattinson*, *Thomas Fell*, *Thomas Carleton*, *John Gibson*, *William Adcock*, *Leonard Whitburne*, and *John Heiberington*.

In this and the foregoing Year, the generality of the *Quakers* in this County, Men, Women, and Children, were fined for *Nonconformity* to the established Worship, which Fines were rigorously exacted by Distresses made on Parents for their Children, Masters for their Servants, and even on such as being themselves Conformists, had Servants or others in their Families who were not. The Sums of Money levied for this Cause in these two Years, amounted to 87*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* We also find that within these last four Years, for Demands made for Steeple-house Rates and Clerk's Wages, amounting to 6*l.* 13*s.* Distresses were made to the Value of 18*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*

ANNO 1665. *Richard Banks*, fined for being at a religious Meeting, had two Cows taken away which cost him 9*l.* 15*s.*

ANNO 1667. In this Year a remarkable Case of the aforesaid *Richard Banks* occurring, we have extracted the same from a *Narrative* thereof written by himself, viz.

“IN the Year 1667, *Lancelot Simpson* having purchased that Estate which I
“farmed of him who was then my Landlord, in the first Place excom-
“municated me, because I would not conform to their Church, he being then,
“and now is, a Prector, resolving to make me submit, or else destroy me
“in the Outward, which he hath very much laboured and endeavoured ever
“since: So pretending that all I had was too little to satisfy the Law, he
“one Day, I being from Home, came, and one *Thomas Stamper* with him,
“and nailed up the Garner-door, and went and turned out all my Threshers,
“and nailed up the Barn-door, and afterward came in the Night Season, when
“the Snow lay thick on the Earth, and we being all in Bed, got into the
“Stable and Byer, and turned out all my Horses, and Cows with their
“young Calves, by reason whereof some perished, and others hardly escaped
“with Life: He also set his Men to pull down the Hedge from about the
“Haystacks, and to keep his own Beasts at them, and to put mine from
“them. Nay farther, I had at that Time nine Score Sheep or thereabouts.
“He would suffer no Man to buy them, but himself pretending a Title, and
“hindering others, I was forced to take a third Penny after a long Con-
“test, and the Death of a third Part of them; by all which I deeply suffered.
“Then

“ Then I, seeing his Cruelty, was forced to seek another Farm, which I got
 “ about twenty Miles off.——In a short Time after, the said *Lancelot*
 “ *Simpson* arrested me with an *Excommunication* Writ, and it being found to be
 “ out of Date, he was at that Time prevented of his Purpose; and still his
 “ Cruelty lives against me and my Wife, because he cannot make us bow, as
 “ is evident by his many Fines against us, and now last of all by his appre-
 “ hending both me and my Wife, and carrying us rigidly away from our
 “ Children and Servants, I having at that very Time ten Men at Work,
 “ these cruel Fellows would scarce let us speak to them. So we being carried
 “ away Prisoners, and straitly lookt to, as Thieves and Felons, in our Way
 “ to the Prison met with *Lancelot Simpson*, and after some Discourse before
 “ many Witnesses, I asked him, *If I owed him any thing? If he would say*
 “ *that I owed him 2 d. I would pay him 4 d.* But he could not demand a Far-
 “ thing. And one Capt. *Leverook* sitting by, asked him, *For what he had ar-*
 “ *rested us? L. S. said, For Contempts of the Law.* The said Captain asked
 “ him, *Which Way we might be freed.* He said, *No Way without conforming*
 “ *and paying the Contempts, viz. the Fines, Court Charges, and his Fees.* When
 “ I desired the Favour of him but two Days to set my House in order, and
 “ then we would go to Prison, he said, *he could not give us two Hours:* Yet
 “ the Lord delivered us in such a Way, as our Enemies cannot find out to
 “ this Day: Blessed be his Name for ever. Through all which cruel Dealing
 “ we have very greatly suffered.——Beside the Hazard and Danger we are
 “ in, through the diligent renewing of his Writs again, unless some timely and
 “ diligent Care be taken for the speedy preventing thereof.

CUMBER-
 LAND.
 1667.

“ *Richard Banks.*”

After this Manner, by repeated Prosecutions in the Ecclesiastical Court, were
 honest Men frequently molested, and *Excommunicated*, in Consequence of which,
 Writs *de Excommunicato capiendo* were issued for imprisoning them: This
 appears by the foregoing Narrative to have been *Richard Banks's* Case, who
 yet doth not appear to have been actually imprisoned, though so violently pur-
 sued by one of the Officers of that Court; however such repeated Attacks
 could not fail of putting the Prosecuted to great Trouble and Expence.

Consequence
 of Ecclesiasti-
 cal Process.

ANNO 1670. In this Year, for Meetings held at *Brough* in this County,
 Distress of Goods was made on several Persons, to the Amount of 90*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*
 Among these was *Robert Huntington*, from whom four Cows, and twenty five
 Sheep were taken, and sold: A Concurrence of Disasters, which soon after
 happened to the Buyers of them was much observed: One *Simson* of *Sowerby*,
 who bought two of those Cows, died in a little Time, leaving the Cows to his
 Father, who also died soon after him. One *White* of *Coldbeck*, bought another
 of them through the Persuasion of his Wife, who said, *they might as well have*
her as another: In a short Time after, she and her Child were found drowned
 in a Pond, where the Water was scarce deep enough to cover her as she lay.
 We think it but just to lay before our Readers the Fact of such remarkable
 Incidents, and leave them to form such a Judgment thereof, as from the
 Nature of the Case, when maturely considered, shall result.

Distresses.

Observable
 Accidents.

Remarkable also in this Year was the Case of *Thomas Stordy*, against whom
 a Warrant was granted for distraining his Goods and Chattels for 20*l.* 10*s.* for
 a Meeting at *Moorhouse*, though himself was then in Prison, and had been so
 near eight Years under Sentence of *Premunire* for not Swearing, and all his
 Estate had been seized for the King. But it pleased God to * release him from
 so long Captivity, by Means of *Charles Howard* Earl of *Chester*, through whose
 Intercession also the King granted his Estate back again to his Children.

Case of T.
 Stordy.

In

* Note, *Thomas Stordy* and *Stephen Pearson* were set at Liberty after about ten Years Im-
 prisonment by the King's Letters Patent in 1672.

CUMBER-
LAND.
1670.

Distresses for
Meetings.

In the same Year, for Meetings at *Settura*, Goods were taken by Distress, to the Amount of 2*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* And for Meetings at *Uldaile*, to the Value of 8*l.* 7*s.* including the wearing Apparel and Bedclothes which were taken from *John Gardbause*, a very poor labouring Man. About the same Time *John Gill* of *Gray-Southen*, being with others in the Burying-place at *Eaglesfield*, read a Paper of *Christian Advice*, written by *William Dewsberry*: For this he was fined 20*l.* and being unable to pay it, the same was partly levied on *Richard Fawcett* and *John Fearon*, from whom, and others, for Meetings at *Pardsay*, were taken, Corn, Cattle, and other Goods, to the Value of 35*l.* 11*s.*

ANNO 1673. Taken from several Persons for a Meeting at *Tutbill* in the Parish of *Coldbeck*, Goods worth 43*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*

Thomas Bewley of *Haltcliff-Hall*, aged about seventy eight, was prosecuted by *Arthur Savage* Priest, for 3*l.* Prescription Money, and had taken from him his Feather Bed, Bedclothes, and a Cupboard, worth 5*l.* The Hardship of the poor old Man's Case so affected the Neighbourhood with Compassion, that when the Bayliff exposed those Goods to Sale, no Body would buy them at any Rate: Whereupon the Priest sued the Bayliff, and made him pay both his Demand and his Costs.

Imprisonment
of T. Bewley,
aged 79.

ANNO 1674. On the 1st of *November* this Year, the same Priest again prosecuted the said *Thomas Bewley* for Tithe of Wool, Lambs, &c. and notwithstanding his very great Age, sent him to Prison.

In this and the next preceding Year, were taken in this County for Tithes, in Corn and other Things, to the Value of 270*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*

Distresses.

ANNO 1675. In this Year were taken from *John Howe* of *Newtown*, and others, for a Meeting at his House, Goods worth 57*l.* 16*s.*

Many Prosecu-
tions for
Tithes.

ANNO 1676. On the 20th of the Month called *January* this Year, *Thomas Bewley*, Son of old *Thomas Bewley* aforesaid, and * *Alice Nicholson* of *Woodhouse*, Widow, were committed to Prison on an *Exchequer* Process, at the Suit of *Arthur Savage*, Priest of *Coldbeck*; at which Time also *George Bewley*, an elder Son of the same ancient Man, was detained in Prison by the same Priest, where he had then lain about two Years. In the same Year *John Strickett* of *Branthwait*, *William Scott* of *Greenrigg*, and *Isabel Peacock* of *Whalpey*, a Widow, who had six Fatherless Children, were also committed to Prison at the same Priest's Suit: As was likewise *Grace Stalker* Widow, at the Suit of *John Monkbouse* for Tithes.

In this Year also, for a Meeting held at *Pardsay-Cragg*, were taken from *John Steel* and others, Goods worth 25*l.* 1*s.*

Imprisonments
on Writs de
Excom. Cap.

ANNO 1677. On the 30th of *September*, *John Jackson* of *Kirklington*, was imprisoned on a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, at the Suit of *Robert Priestman* for Predial Tithes.

16 Persons
sent to Prison.

ANNO 1679. In this Year sixteen Persons were taken by a Sessions Warrant, and committed to Prison, for Absence from the National Worship, viz. *John Jackson*, *William Graham*, *Christopher Taylor*, *Christopher Jackson*, *Humphry Tweedal*, *Fergus Watson*, *Andrew Taylor*, *Francis Gillespy*, *Thomas Vowe*, *George Graham* of *Rigg*, *Andrew Hetherington*, *Simon Armstrong*, *James Clark*, *Henry Graham*, *George Graham* of *Blackhouse*, and *John Scott*. And in the same Year *William Langcake*, *T. Ostell*, *William Saul*, and *John Waite*, were imprisoned for Tithes at the Suit of *William Dalston*.

Amount of
Distresses for
Tithes.

ANNO 1680. The Amount of the Tithes, taken in kind from this People in this County, in this and the four Years next foregoing, is 777*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*

Fines for
Meetings in
their Houses.

In this Year also, for Meetings at their respective Houses, were taken from *Thomas Drewry* of *Newland's Row*, Goods worth 11*l.* from *Henry Scollick* of *Newbiggen*, Horses and Cattle worth 26*l.* and from *Edward Tyson* of *Bickerthwaite*, Goods worth 19*s.* 7*d.*

* This *Alice Nicholson* was a poor Widow, with six Fatherless Children, whose Husband had died in Prison at the same Priest's Suit.

In the same Year *John Saul*, *Thomas Splatt*, *John Ostell*, and *John Barne*, suffered Distress of Goods for refusing to Swear when summoned to serve on Juries at the Mannour Courts: Also *John Graham* and *John Bell* were fined for the same Cause. Several others, dwelling at *Scotby*, were returned into the *Exchequer* for refusing to Swear, upon Convictions for Recusancy, on Statutes made against *Papists*, and suffered Distress of Goods on that Account, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
<i>Elizabeth Bond</i> , to the Value of	5	19	7
<i>Thomas Dobinson</i> , to the Value of	6	0	0
<i>John Richardson</i> , to the Value of	3	17	8
	15	17	3

CUMBER-
LAND.
1680.

Exchequer
Processes.

Some of those Goods were sold at low Rates in *Carlisle* Market, but when the People understood that they were the Spoils of Conscience, they refused to buy any more of them.

ANNO 1681. In this Year *John Aglionby*, a Justice of the Peace, was persuaded by *Jeremy Nelson*, Priest of *Stanwick*, to issue Warrants of Distress on several Persons for absenting themselves from the National Worship, by which Warrants Goods were taken to the Value of 8*l.* 9*s.* One of them was *George Gray*, a Man very poor, from whom the Spoilers took five Sheep-skins, which he had bought to clothe his Children, of whom he had several: One of the Officers, who made the Seizure, represented to the Priest the Hardship of the poor Man's Case, and his great Charge of Children, but the Priest's Answer to him was, *Let the Country maintain them.*

Distress for
Absence from
the publick
Worship.
Hard Case of
a poor Man.

Churlish An-
swer of a
Priest.

ANNO 1682. On the 20th of the Month called *April* this Year, the following Persons were continuing Prisoners for Tithe, at the Suit of *Arthur Savage*, Priest of *Caldbeck*, viz. *Thomas Bewley* and *Alice Nicholson*, who had then been Prisoners five Years and three Months, *William Scott* five Years and four Months, *George Stalker* four Years and four Months, and *Grace Stalker* five Years and ten Months. Also *John Sowerby*, who had been Prisoner three Years and seven Months at the Suit of *Allan Smallwood*, Priest of *Graystock*, and *John Todhunter*, who had been imprisoned three Years and two Months, at the Suit of the same Priest. Also *William Langtake*, *William Saul*, and *John Waite*, imprisoned three Years and three Weeks, at the Suit of *William Dalton* Tithe-farmer. Likewise *William Holme*, imprisoned above a Year on a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo*, at the Suit of *William Stanley* of *Dalgarth*, Impropriator, died a Prisoner on the 2d of *September* this Year. *Hugh Tickell* and *Thomas Birkhead* were Prisoners by Attachments out of the *Exchequer*, at the Suit of *Richard Lowry*, Priest of *Croftwaite*. In this Year were discharged out of Prison *Randolph Bulman*, committed on a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo*, at the Suit of *Thomas Blemer*, Farmer of the Bishop's Tithe: Also *John Slee*, who had been committed at the Suit of *Allan Smallwood*; and *George Bewley*, who had lain in Prison more than five Years, at the Suit of *Arthur Savage*, Priest of *Caldbeck*.

Long Imprison-
ments for
Tithes.

W. Holme
died Prisoner.

Some released.

In November this Year, *John Holme* was committed to Prison at the Suit of *Lancelot Simpson* Impropriator: Also *Thomas Robinson*, *Matthew Stordy*, and *Thomas Bone*, were imprisoned after Excommunication, at the Suit of *Jeremy Nelson* Priest: *Arthur Cordell* was also imprisoned six Weeks, at the Suit of *Rowland Nichols* a Priest.

Imprisonments.

ANNO 1683. On the 13th of the Month called *February* this Year, several Informers came to a Meeting at *Pardsey Cragg*, and found *Peter Fearon* preaching: They applied to Justice *Fletcher*, who fined him 20*l.* and ordered the same to be levied on himself and several others present, although the said *Peter* desired him to charge the Whole on himself, he being of sufficient Ability, but the Justice would not. In a short Time after were taken by Distress for the said Fine,

CUMBER-
LAND
1683

Fines for
Meeting at
Pardsey-
Cragg,

From Peter Fearon, Goods worth	l.	s.	d.
Allan Peele, an Horse worth	3	5	0
John Banks, Goods worth	3	0	0
John Tiffin, two Cows worth	7	4	0
John Fallowfield, Goods worth	5	10	0
	7	0	0

When these Goods were exposed to Sale, and Buyers of them could not be found, the Justice ordered his own Servants to purchase some of them, which they did at a very low Price, and the Officers, to supply the Defect, made another Seizure on some of the Persons concerned.

and at Cross-
field.

For a Meeting at Crossfield in the Parish of Cleater, were taken from John Nicholson two Oxen worth 8l, and from Thomas Sharp of St. Bee's Parish, two Oxen worth 6l. 6s.

Prisoners for
Tithes.

Christopeer Story of Righead, for permitting a Meeting at his House, had taken from him by a Warrant granted by Justice Aglionby, two Horses worth 5l. 10s.

Death of
T. Stordy.

ANNO 1684. In the Month called May this Year, Thomas Stordy, William Johnson, John Robinson, Japhet Allason, Joseph Steel, John Banks, and John Bewley of Gateskail, were Prisoners in Carlisle Goal: And in the same Year Richard Ribton, Jonathan Bewman, and Thomas Hall, all of Broughton, were imprisoned for refusing to pay small Tithes, at the Suit of Richard Tickel, Priest of Bridekirk. Also in the Month called January this Year, Christopher Fearon, Richard Head, John Robinson, Thomas Robinson, and Anne Steel Widow, all of Messer, and Luke Steel of Mersgill, were committed to Carlisle Goal by an Exchequer Writ for Tithes, at the Suit of George Fletcher of Hutton. About the latter End of the Month of December, Thomas Stordy died a Prisoner, having continued steadfast through manifold Sufferings to the End of his Pilgrimage.

Fines for
Meeting.

From William Graham of Riggfoot, Corn worth	l.	s.	d.
Christopher Taylor of Hetherside, Rye worth	0	5	6
Christopher Story of Righead, Sheep worth	0	15	0
Henry Graham, Oats worth	1	8	0
	0	15	0
	3	3	6

A Womens
Meeting.

On the 17th of the Month called February this Year, was a Meeting of Women at Pardsey-Cragg, to which three Justices came, and demanded of them What they met there for? One of the Women answered, To take Care of the Poor: Which was indeed the Occasion of their Meeting. One of the Justices asked, Whether there were no Beggars among them? To which they answered No. He replied, That is well. Nevertheless the Justices turned them out of the House, and fined some of them as being at an unlawful Assembly: For which Fines, Elizabeth Tolson and Mary Wilson suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 12s.

Distresses for
not Swearing.

Thomas Scott of Ousebridge-End, for refusing to take an Oath at the Mannour Court, suffered Distress of Brass and Pewter to the Value of 4l. 8s. and John Roger of Water-End, had for the same Cause his Pewter taken away, to the Value of 8s. Also John Caipe of Uldall, for not procuring a Person to swear that his Wife was buried in Woolen, though divers were ready to attest it, had his Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 2l. 10s.

W. Adcock
fined.

ANNO 1685. William Adcock of Sunderland, was fined at a Mannour Court for refusing to Swear, and had taken from him Goods worth 15s.

Christopher

Christopher Taylor, Andrew Taylor, William Graham, Henry Graham, George Blair, Andrew Graham, Philip Haffard, Richard Latimer, Andrew Hetherington, Simon Armstrong and Christopher Story, for being at a Meeting, were indicted at the Affizes as Rioters, and for not traversing that Indictment, sent to Prison.

ANNO 1687. On the 8th of the Month called March this Year, Elizabeth Watson of Highmore, Widow, died a Prisoner for Tithes, at the Suit of George Fletcher Impropiator.

ANNO 1688. In this Year were remaining Prisoners in Carlisle Goal, at the Suit of George Fletcher Impropiator, Japhet Allason, Luke Steel, John Seenhouse sen. John Seenhouse jun. Joseph Steel, Christopher Fearon, Anne Steel, John Banks, and William Wright; and at the Suit of John Lowther of Lowther Impropiator, Thomas Ostel, Mary Saul Widow, William Glaister, Thomas Drapp, Anthony Skelton, William Bouch, Arthur Skelton, John Biglands, and Thomas Wilkinson.

ANNO 1689. The Generality of the People called Quakers, imprisoned in this County, were set at Liberty by Means of an Act of Grace granted by King William and Queen Mary after their Accession to the Crown.

ANNO 1690. By the Accounts of Tithes taken from the said People in this County, from 1681 to 1690, it appears, that the Value of Corn and other Things taken in Kind, amounted within those ten Years, to the Sum of 2215 l. 15 s. 9 d. And that in three of those Years the Sums taken from them for Steeple-house Rates and Clerks Wages, amounted to 3 l. 13 s. 6 d.

CUMBER-
LAND.
1685.

12 Indicted as
Rioters.
Death of
E. Watson.

Account of
Prisoners.

Release of Pri-
soners.

Summary of
Tithes taken in
kind.

C H A P. X. DERBYSHIRE.

DERBY-
SHIRE.
1650.

ANNO 1650.

ON the 30th of October this Year, many Officers of the Army, and others of Note, being at a publick Lecture at Derby, George Fox took an Opportunity after their Worship was over, to declare the Truth among them, and direct them to the Guidance of the Light of Christ in their own Consciences: For this he was apprehended, and after a long Examination sent to Prison by the following Mittimus, viz.

G. Fox sent
to the House
of Correction.

“ To the Master of the House of Correction in Derby.

“ WE have sent you herewithal the Bodies of George Fox late of Mans-
“ field in the County of Nottingham, and John Fretwell late of Staines-
“ by in the County of Derby, Husbandman, brought before us this present
“ Day, and charged with the avowed uttering and broaching of divers blas-
“ phemous Opinions, contrary to a late Act of Parliament, which upon their
“ Examination before us they have confessed. These are therefore to require
“ you, forthwith upon Sight hereof, to receive them the said George Fox and
“ John Fretwell into your Custody, and them therein safely keep during the
“ Space of six Months, without Bail or Mainprize, or until they shall find
“ sufficient Security to be of good Behaviour, or be thence delivered by Order
“ from our selves. Hereof you are not to fail. Given under our Hands and
“ Seals this 30th Day of October 1650.

His Mittimus.

Ger. Bennett, Nath. Barton.

By

DERBY-
SHIRE.
1650.

*Instability of
J. Fretwell.*

*G. Fox's cruel
Confinement.
His Constancy.*

*His Letter to
the Magi-
strates.*

By this *Mittimus* it appears that *John Fretwell* was sent to Prison with *George Fox*, but he did not continue there long, for being an unstable Man, and not able to bear the Storm of Persecution, he obtained his Liberty, while *George Fox* was continued in Prison, though some of his Relations had offered to bail him, but he knowing himself innocent, would not consent that any should be bound for him. After almost six Months Confinement, he was brought before the Commissioners of the Army, who offered him a Captain's Place, but he refusing what they called a Favour, and testifying against all Wars and Fighting, they grew very angry, and ordered him to be confined in the Dungeon of the common Goal at *Derby*, where he was kept almost half a Year amongst thirty Felons in a close stinking Place. The Miseries of this close Confinement he endured with a Christian Magnanimity, and though he was much grieved with the wicked Conversation of the Prisoners, yet he abode constant and patient, faithfully reproving them for their wicked Words and evil Actions one towards another. During his Imprisonment he wrote the following Letter to the Magistrates of *Derby*, viz.

“ Friends,

“ I Desire you to consider whom ye do imprison: For the Magistrate is
“ set for the Punishment of evil Doers, and for the Praise of them that do
“ well: But when the Lord doth send his Messengers unto you, to warn you
“ of the Woes that will come upon you, except you repent, then you perse-
“ cute them, and put them into Prison, and say, *We have Law, and by our*
“ *Law we may do it*: For you indeed justify your selves before Men, but
“ God knoweth your Hearts: He will not be worshipped with your Forms
“ and Professions, and Shews of Religion. Therefore consider, ye that talk
“ of God, how ye are subject to him, for they are his Children that do his
“ Will. What doth the Lord require of you, but to do Justice, to love
“ and shew Mercy, to walk humbly with him, and to help the Widows and
“ Fatherless to their Right? But instead thereof ye oppress the Poor. Do not
“ you Judges judge for Rewards, and your Priests teach for Hire? The Time
“ is coming, that he who seeth all Things will discover all your Secrets. And
“ know this assuredly, The Lord will deliver his Servants out of your Hands,
“ and he will recompence all your unjust Dealings toward his People. I de-
“ sire you to consider of these Things, and search the Scriptures, and see
“ whether any of the People of God did ever imprison any for Religion, but
“ were themselves imprisoned. I desire you to consider how it is written,
“ that when the Church is met together, they may all Prophecy one by one, that
“ all may hear, and all may learn, and all may be comforted: And then, if
“ any Thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his Peace.
“ Thus it was in the true Church, and thus it ought to be. But it is not
“ so in your Assemblies, but he that teaches for Hire may speak, and
“ none may contradict him. Again, consider this Liberty that was given to
“ the Apostles, even among the unbelieving Jews; when after the Reading
“ of the Law and the Prophets, the Rulers of the Synagogue said unto them,
“ *Ye Men and Brethren, if ye have any Word of Exhortation for the People, say*
“ *on*. I desire you to consider in Stillness, and strive not against the Lord,
“ for he is stronger than you. Though ye hold his People fast for a Time,
“ yet when he cometh he will make known who are his, for his Coming is
“ like the Refiner's Fire, and like Fuller's Sope. Then the Stone that is set at
“ nought of you Builders, shall be the Head Stone of the Corner. O Friends,
“ lay these Things to Heart, and let them not seem light Things to you. I
“ wrote unto you in Love, to mind the Love of God and your own Souls, and
“ do as the holy Men of God did.

“ G. Fox.”

In

In like Plainness of Stile he wrote several Times to the Justices who committed him, and to the Mayor of *Derby*, till at length the Magistrates began to be uneasy about him, nor could they agree what to do with him, for they clearly saw that their Charge against him, of holding *Blasphemous Opinions*, could not be made out, having no other Foundation, than his declaring, *that he was sanctified, and that Christ had taken away his Sin*. Thus his Patience and Innocence pleaded his Cause, till they who at first called him a *Deceiver* and *Blasphemer* altered their *Sentiments*, and declared him to be an *honest* and *virtuous Man*. They set him at Liberty, after about a Year's Imprisonment, and without bringing him to any Trial or Hearing of his Case.

DERBY-SHIRE.
1650.

The Magistrates Sense of his Innocence.

His Discharge.

ANNO 1651. In this Year *Elizabeth Hooton*, a zealous Woman, and said to be the first of that Sex who preached publicly among the *Quakers*, was cast into Prison at *Derby*. She was early convinced by the Ministry of *George Fox*, and began to preach about the Year 1650. The Cause of her Imprisonment was her speaking to one of the Priests there, who so resented her Reproof, that he applied to the Magistrate to punish her. For it is common with Men who most deserve Reprehension, to be most offended with those who administer it.

Imprisonment of E. Hooton.

ANNO 1654. Several Meetings in this County were broken up, and the People forcibly haled out of them by Soldiers commanded by a Colonel, who said he had Authority from the Protector to disturb all Meetings; which Authority when one of them desired him to shew, the Soldiers beat and abused the Person who asked it. In this Year also *Thomas Towndrow*, for exhorting the People in the Steeple-house at *Asbover*, after the Priest had ended his Sermon, and leaving a Writing on the Door, was imprisoned three Months; and *John Lawson*, for reproving Sin in the Streets of *Boulsover*, was imprisoned almost as long.

Meetings insulted by Soldiers.

Several imprisoned.

ANNO 1657. Several Persons in this County, for Demands of Tithes of but 14s. Value, suffered Distress of Goods worth 2l. 18s. 8d. Also *John Allen*, for refusing to pay Tithes, suffered two Months Imprisonment. *John Frith* of *Chesterfield*, had an Horse taken away for 3s. demanded for Tithes and *Easter-Offerings*. *Tristram Ridgway*, for a Demand of 5d. had Goods taken away worth 7s. *John Ridgway* also suffered Distress, at the Suit of a Priest of a new created Chapel in the *Peak-Forest*.

Imprisonments and Distresses for Tithes.

Laurence Pearson, *Richard Sales*, and *John Taylor*, for testifying against Sin in the Streets of *Heighfield*, were imprisoned about six Months; as was *William Dewsberry* a considerable Time for publicly exhorting People to the Fear of God in the Streets of *Derby*. Also *Jane Stones*, for declaring the Truth at *Starley*, was thrown into the Water by the rude People: And at another Time and Place for the same Cause, she was shamefully abused, cast into Prison, and cruelly whipt. In this Year also *Thomas Brockfopp* and *Anthony Wright*, for refusing to put off their Hats at a General Sessions in *Derby*, were by the Justices sent to Prison, and detained several Days.

Many Imprisonments.

ANNO 1658. *Elizabeth Arnold* was sent to Prison for opposing the Doctrine of a Preacher at *Brampton*; and *Robert Bakewell*, for a like Cause, was imprisoned one Month.

Imprisonments.

ANNO 1659. On the 21st of the Month called *August* this Year, *Ralph Sharply*, *William Grinday*, *Samuel Carrington*, and *John Allen*, going toward the Meeting at *Asburn*, were, by Order of two Justices, set in the Stocks above an Hour. After they were released thence, *Ralph Sharply* was concerned to preach to the People, for which he was sent to the House of Correction. After two Days Confinement there, he again declared the Truth in the Streets, when an envious Priest and a Lawyer charged him with denying the Scriptures to be the Word of God, to which he answered, *I don't deny the Scriptures, but own and witness them, but I deny them to be the immortal Word of God which endures for ever*. This Expression they called *Blasphemy*, and procured two Justices as wise as themselves to make his *Mittimus* to *Derby Goal*, where he was kept ten Days.

Some set in the Stocks.

R. Sharply charged with Blasphemy.

DERBY-
SHIRE.
1659.

Sore Abuses

Days. Also Richard Buxton, George Howard, James Smith, Thomas Tomlinson, Richard Bunt, and William Lomas, were imprisoned for going to a Meeting at Ashburn, and several others going thither were stoppt and not suffered to hold their Meeting, but were turned forcibly out of the Town.

In this Year also John Lingard, John Kirk, and many others, going to a Meeting on the Peak-Forest, were assaulted by Richard Briggs a Priest, and a Company of rude People with him. John Kirk was sorely beaten by the Priest himself, and the People following his Example, beat and abused the rest, violently driving and pushing some, stoning others, pulling the Hair from their Heads, and lamentably bruising the Bodies of James Harrison, Ralph Weild, Edward Lingard, John Goddard, Thomas Bowers, Ralph Ridgway, John Lingard sen. John Lingard jun. Mary Lingard, and John Ridgway, so that they lost much Blood, and were in great Danger of their Lives: All which unchristian Usage they bore with an innocent Patience, not lifting up an Hand against their Persecutors.

Imprisonment.

ANNO 1660. In this Year Richard Canton, as he was returning Home from a Meeting, was taken up by Order of a Justice of the Peace, and committed to Prison. Also John Shields, for bearing his Testimony against Sin in Ashburn Town, was dragged through the Mire of the Streets, and turned out of the Town.

Abuses.

Arbitrary Proceedings.

On the 3d of the Month called February this Year, George Goodridge of Ashburn, was taken out of his own House, and by a Neighbouring Justice committed to Goal at Derby, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance; as was also, together with him, Thomas Tomlinson: They were both detained there six Weeks.

Fines.

Simon Evans of Dronfield, and Anthony Cutlove, were fined 30 s. each, for refusing to Swear at a Court Leet, for which Fines the former had a Mare taken from him worth 4 l. and the latter a Mare worth 3 l.

Fines and Distress for Tithes.

ANNO 1661. John Lynam suffered nine or ten Weeks Imprisonment for Tithes at the Suit of the Priest of South-Wingfield: And in the same Year Alice Woolhead and Thomas Morton, prosecuted by John Burton Priest of Clown, in the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes, were excommunicated, and afterward had taken from them two Beasts worth 5 l. 6 s. 8 d. though the greater Part of their Tithes had been taken in Kind before. Also Robert Arundel a very poor Man, with a great Family of Children, for the Tithe of a few Oats, had a Mare taken from him to the Value of 48 s.

Violent dispersing of a Meeting.

On the 20th of the Month called June this Year, a Magistrate of the Town, with a rude Company, came into a Meeting at Dronfield, and ordered the Assembly to depart, which they not doing, he commanded his Attendants to pull them out, which was instantly done with Rudeness and Violence; and being out they continued their Abuses, striking one with a great Stone, and casting another into the Water: William Yardly was set in the Stocks, and exposed to the Diversion of the People. Three Days after this was a Meeting at Eyam in the High-Peak, to which came a Constable with Soldiers, and plucked down Elizabeth Deane then praying, dragging her out of Doors, and shamefully tearing her Clothes. With like Violence they drew out the rest, some by the Hair of the Head, others by the Legs with their Heads on the Ground: After which they were carried to a Justice of the Peace by those who had thus abused them, and refusing to give Sureties for their good Behaviour, they were by his Mittimus ordered to Derby Goal: After which they were kept all Night in a Barn, and next Day conveyed to Crich, and there kept another Night in a Room, many of them lying on the Floor, not having so much as Straw to lie on. Thus fatigued they were carried the Day after to Derby, being thirty one Men and ten Women, namely Cornelius Arnold, Anthony Cutlove, Thomas Taylor, William Shaw, John Allen, Henry Gibbins, John Lingard, James Metkam, Anthony Waterhouse, John Wilson, Robert Scholy, George Shaw, Anthony Bowman, George Lamb, William Charlesworth, Thomas Foulk, John Ridgway, Ralph Sharply, William Brough, John Coope, Richard Furnis, George Brough, Thomas Lingard

41 Sent to Prison.

Lingard, William Yardly, Matthew Glegg, Godfrey Beard, Ralph Bentlift, Thomas Bilstone, Nicholas Swift, Thomas Wilson, Simon Evans, Elizabeth Deane, Frances Adran, Sarah Slea, Martha Shaw, Ellen Blith, Anne Staley, Margaret Waterhouse, Ellen Beard, Anne Johnson, and Margaret Marshall. They were kept Prisoners till the 18th of the next Month, when Ralph Sharply, William Yardly, and Elizabeth Deane, were sent for before a Bench of Justices, who committed the two Men to the House of Correction, and ordered the Woman to be sent with a Pass to Worcester, the Place of her Abode: And on the 22d they ordered all the rest to be set at Liberty. In the House of Correction Ralph Sharply and William Yardly were inhumanly used by the cruel Keeper, who put them into a close Hole where they could not stand upright, nor had they Liberty to come out to ease their Bodies, but were constrained to do it in the Place. Their Books and Letters were taken away and never restored. And when in that strait Confinement they were praying to the Lord, the Keeper in a Rage would strike them on the Face, and attempt to stop their Mouths; nor were their Friends permitted either to visit or relieve them.

In this Year also Richard Lambert, Robert Martin, Mordecai White, Peter Anclift, John Kneeton, and Thomas Martin, were taken out of a Meeting, and by the Justices at their Quarter Sessions committed to Derby Goal, where they were detained a Month. Also Robert Pain, George Wallis, Thomas Barnet, Thomas Pixly, Thomas Cole, Ellen Wallott, and Anne Rowbotham, were taken on the Highway as they were going to a Meeting, and by a Justice of the Peace sent to Prison. The Women were freed soon after at Sessions, but the Men remained Prisoners twenty Weeks.

ANNO 1662. Alice Woolhead, for giving a Christian Exhortation to the People at one of the publick Worship-houses in Derby, was sent to Prison; and Thomas Lingard, for the same Cause, was set in the Stocks. In this Year also George Lingard, for not taking off his Hat in a Court of Judicature, was fined 20l. and committed to Prison, where he was close confined among Felons, and not suffered to see his Friends.

ANNO 1663. In this Year Robert Levick, for a Claim of 7d. and George Brough, for Tithes of Wool and Lambs, were prosecuted in the Exchequer, and cast into Prison at the Suit of John Coupe, Priest of Chesterfield: Also John Lynam for 1l. 5s. demanded by the Priest of South-Wingfield, had a Cow taken from him worth 3l. 3s. 4d. And Richard Furnis, for a Claim of 5d. for Easter-Offerings, suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 1l. 6s. 8d. John Frith was imprisoned at the Suit of John Coupe Priest, for a Claim of 12d. for Easter-Offerings. And for a like Claim Thomas Allen had his Goods distrained.

On the 5th of the Month called July this Year, Thomas Towndrow, Anthony Cutlove, Margaret Kellam, and John Frith, were taken out of a Meeting at Chesterfield: Towndrow was set in the Stocks, and the other three were sent to the House of Correction. On the 20th of December, five others, taken at a Meeting, were also sent to the House of Correction, and kept there about nine Weeks; and about six Weeks after that, six others from another Meeting were added to their Number, and detained three Weeks. Also on the 13th of March following, nineteen Persons, taken from a Meeting, were kept two Nights in the Town-hall, lodging on the Floor; after which, seven of them were sent to the County Goal. In this Year also about seventy five of the People called Quakers were on several Pretences excommunicated.

ANNO 1665. On the 14th of the Month called May, the Meeting at Chesterfield was broke up by the Mayor's Order, and most of the Persons present were instantly forced out of Town; but John Allen, William Storrs, and Elizabeth Holme, were sent to the House of Correction, and detained there three Months. Also Susanna Frith, taken when out of the Meeting, was committed to the same Place. On the 3d of September a Justice of the Peace came to a Meeting near North-Wingfield, and took the Names of all present: After which he and another Justice issued Warrants, ordering their Appearance before

DERBY-SHIRE.
1661.

Cruelty of
the Goaler.

More Pri-
soners for
Meeting.

Confinement
among Felons.

Exchequer
Prosecutions.
Distresses.

Imprison-
ment.

Variety of
Sufferings for
Meetings.

Many Impri-
sonments for
Meetings.

DERBY-
SHIRE.
1665.

fore them at *Chesterfield* on the 14th of the same Month; which being obeyed, one and thirty of them were sent to the House of Correction, of whom thirteen, namely, *Edward Curtis*, *Thomas Farnsworth*, *Godfrey Fowlds*, *Henry Harvey*, *Thomas Taylor*, *George Brough*, *William Brough*, *Abraham Cundy*, *John Frith*, *John Cross*, *Anthony Woodward*, *Hercules Harvy*, and *Thomas Brockfopp*, were kept there till the next Sessions about three Weeks after. On the 18th of the Month called *January*, *Anthony Bunting*, *Anthony Woodward*, and *John Cross*, taken at a Meeting, were by two Justices committed to Prison for six Months. In the same Year *Thomas Lynam* suffered three Months Imprisonment for being at a Meeting, and afterward for the same Cause had Cattle taken from him worth 7*l*. Also *Anthony Cutlove*, fined 5*l*. for Meeting, suffered for that Fine both Imprisonment and Distress of his Cattle.

Imprisonments
and Fines.

ANNO 1668. On the 26th of the Month called *August*, *Richard Furnis* and *Mary Wilson* were taken up by an Assize Warrant, and committed to Prison.

Excommuni-
cations.

About this Time many in this County were excommunicated for their Absence from the publick Worship, viz. *Ralph Hartliff* and his Wife, *Thomas Fowkes* and his Wife, *George Ashley* and his Wife, *Nicholas Turner* and his Wife, *Godfrey Fowkes* and his Wife, *John Fletcher sen.* *Katharine Fletcher*, *Thomas Linham*, *William Kirk*, *John Clay*, *Eleanor Fletcher*, *Grace Fletcher*, *Jane Brelsford*, *Francis Farnsworth*, *John Curtis*, and *John Fletcher jun.*

Of DERBY, *William Hayward*, his Wife and Daughter.

Of CHESTERFIELD, *John Frith* and his Wife, *Nicholas Swift*, *Robert Le-vick*, *Robert Watkinson*, and *George Brough*.

Of ALFERTON, *John Kirk*, *Elizabeth Kirk*, *Godfrey Kirk* and his Wife.

Of CLOWN, *Alice Woolhead*, *Thomas Morton* and his Wife.

Of BRIMINGTON, *Cornelius Arnold* and his Wife, *John Allen* and his Wife, *Christopher Newton* and his Wife, *Abraham Cundy*, *Elizabeth Wright*, *John Cowper*, *George Cowlishaw*.

Of WHITTINGTON, *Anne Waterhouse*, *Thomas Jolley*, *Mary Renshaw*, and *Ellen Beard*.

Of ASHBURN, *George Goodrich* and his Wife, *Richard Hunt* and his Wife, *Thomas Tomlinson* and his Wife, *Elizabeth Bower*.

Of DOWDRIDGE, *Robert Jenkinson* and his Wife, *Mary Betram*, *Thomas Duce*, *Elizabeth Osborne*, *Anne Robotam*, *John Betram*, and *Elizabeth Woolat*.

Imprisonments
for small
Claims of
Tithes.
Many Dis-
tresses for
Meeting.

ANNO 1670. In this Year *John Sykes* and his Son *Samuel Sykes*, were committed to Prison at the Suit of *Christopher Lawson*, Priest of *Bakewell*, for Tithes demanded, of the former 4*s*. and of the latter but 6*d*.

In this Year also many underwent the spoiling of their Goods for frequenting religious Assemblies; for one of those Meetings, usually held at the House of *Anthony Bunting*, were Goods taken in Value as follows, viz.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>Anthony Bunting</i>	11	0	0
<i>Anthony Woodward</i>	21	0	0
<i>Thomas Fowkes</i>	12	0	0
<i>William Storrs</i>	55	13	10
<i>Nathaniel Bingham</i>	0	10	0

For Fines of 59*l*. 5*s*. Value, Taken 100 3 10

For a Meeting at the House of *Cornelius Arnold* of *Loades*, was taken

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>Cornelius Arnold</i>	13	6	8
<i>Anthony Haslam</i>	2	3	4
<i>Henry Harvey</i>	7	0	0
<i>Elizabeth Wright</i>	0	7	0
	22	17	0

Carried over

DERBY:
SHIRE.
1670.

	Brought over	22	17	0
Robert Haslam		2	13	4
Abraham Gundy		0	8	0
Godfrey Beard		1	18	0

27 16 4

For a Meeting at the House of John Holmes near Chesterfield, was taken

From	l.	s.	d.
John Holmes	30	0	0
William Black	0	19	2
Frances Shaw	0	10	0
Rose Milner	0	5	0
Anthony Sykes	1	10	0
Anthony Cutlove	0	15	0
Richard Hancock	0	8	6
Hugh Masland	1	0	0
Christopher Birbeck	4	10	0
Clement Wombell	0	8	0
Robert Watkinson	0	8	0
Widow Friib	13	7	0
Hercules Harvy	0	15	0
Thomas Hage	0	5	0
Robert Levick	0	12	0

55 12 8

From Nicholas Swift, for a Meeting at his House, were Goods taken to the Value of 7l.

For Meetings at the House of Thomas Fowkes, and for other Meetings at Tupton and Pilsley, in the Months called July and August this Year, was taken

From	l.	s.	d.
John Rhodes	20	0	0
Thomas Fowkes	8	0	0
Thomas Linbam	26	0	0
George Ashley	8	16	0
Joseph Hutton	0	5	0
William Walker	0	17	6
John Allen	15	0	0
Godfrey Fowkes	0	5	0
William Storrs	19	12	0
Anthony Bunting	0	14	0
Francis Lee	0	15	0
Edward Curtis	0	5	0
Matthew Hopkinson	10	5	0
John Crofs	2	3	4
James Hopworth	12	0	0
John Kirk	10	0	0
John Fletcher	10	15	0
John Fretwell	10	0	0

155 12 10

Thomas Linbam, for a Meeting in his House at Pilsley on the 16th of October, was fined 10l. for which he was deprived of all his Goods as well within Doors as without : Also William Cooper, for being at that Meeting, had not only his Cow, Corn, Hay, and Household Goods taken away, but also his Coat, and

Grievous
Distresses.

DERBY
SHIRE
1670.

the Meat he had provided for his Family, he having a Wife and three small Children: For those Spoilers of Houses had no Compassion. From Thomas Ellis a poor Smith, for lack of other Goods, they took his Bellows, Hammers, and other working Tools: They also took away Goods from others at the same Meeting, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
From Thomas Bracksupp	12	0	0
John Kirke	4	17	0
James Sidpworth	0	3	4
John Crofs	6	3	0
	<hr/>		
	22	3	4

Taken also for Meetings at Cartop,

	l.	s.	d.
From Tristram Ridgway	8	0	0
William Storrs	0	6	0
Francis Stanfield	9	0	0
Anthony Boden	1	0	0
James Ridgway	0	11	0
Richard Warrington	0	11	0
William Clayton	0	6	0
Thomas Boore	4	15	0
	<hr/>		
	24	9	0

And on the 26th of the Month called February, for being at a Meeting at Normanton, Thomas Brocksupp suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 14l.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

ANNO 1673. Thomas Brocksupp and Henry Hersey, for small Tithes, and Thomas Burbeck, for Easter-Offerings, were imprisoned at the Suit of John Coupe, Priest of Chesterfield.

ANNO 1674. John Lingard, and his Son of the same Name, were imprisoned at Derby, at the Suit of William White, Priest of Chappel.

Imprisonments
for Tithes, &c.

ANNO 1675. Joseph Watts of Brampton was prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for about 2s. 6d. for Tithes and Easter-Offerings, at the Suit of Richard Mathemon Priest, and imprisoned at Chesterfield twenty two Weeks. His Prosecutor strictly charged the Goaler not to suffer his Prisoner to do any Work toward his Support. John Bartram of Compton, was also prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court, at the Suit of Thomas Godread Vicar there, for Tithes or Easter-Offerings, and was committed to Prison on a Significavit, by Warrant from two Justices of the Peace.

ANNO 1676. For a Meeting at Tupton on the 29th of September, Goods were taken by Distress, viz.

Distresses for
Meeting.

	l.	s.	d.
From John Allen, to the Value of	5	5	0
William Kirk	0	7	0
Anthony Allen	0	15	0
Thomas Linham	0	5	0
George Ellis	0	5	0
	<hr/>		
	6	17	0

Imprisonments
on a Writ de
Excom. Cap.

Thomas Fowkes, for being at the same Meeting, had the greatest Part of his Goods seized, and exposed to Sale at two Markets, but no Body would buy them, which when the Constables reported to the Justices, they threatened to fine them: Thus constrained, they sold them for 3l. far beneath their Value.

In this Year Hugh Martin and John Ellis were kept under close Confinement in the County Goal at Derby, on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo.

ANNO

CHAP. 10. of the People called QUAKERS.

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ANNO 1677. For a Meeting held in the House of Francis Davenport at Whittington, on the 17th of the Month called February this Year, Goods were taken by a Warrant from Francis Burton Justice, as follows, viz.

DERBY-SHIRE.
1677.

Distresses.

	l.	s.	d.
From Francis Davenport	8	10	0
William Storrs	0	7	6
Thomas Burbeck	0	11	6
William Miers	0	5	0
Godfrey Beard	1	0	0
Anthony Allen	0	9	0
Susanna Frith	0	10	0
Hercules Harvy	0	5	0
	11	18	0

ANNO 1678. In this Year the suffering Case of Eleanor Robotham, a Widow about sixty Years of Age, merited Compassion; she having been then a Prisoner two Years for small Tithes of about 1 s. 6 d. Value, at the Suit of Henry Burden, Priest of Sleighton. And in the same Year Edward Lingard, after he had been imprisoned above five Months at the Suit of George Lowe, had taken from him seven Beasts, and two Horses with their Saddles and Sacks, as they were going to Market, to the Value of 29 l. In this Year also William Beard of Stackball Chapel in the Frith, was prosecuted on the Statute of 20 l. per Month, as a Popish Recusant, for 220 l. a pretended Forfeiture for his Absence from the publick Worship, and was thereupon committed to Prison.

Hard Case of
an aged Wi-
dow and
others.

ANNO 1680. John Gratton of Mony-Ash, for Absence from the publick Worship, was prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court, excommunicated, and committed Prisoner to Derby Goal.

J. Gratton's
Imprisonment.

ANNO 1685. In October this Year Thomas Holland of Sleanor, for a Meeting at his House, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 8 l. 0 s. 0 d. And for the same Meeting was taken

From William Maskall of Ilson, Goods worth	9	10	0
John Hanks	0	7	6
Samuel Row	0	5	0
William Woolley	1	2	0
Richard Malsby	0	6	8
John Linham and Edward Searson	10	0	0
Daniel Betteridge	0	8	0
	29	19	2

Distresses for
Meetings.

Upon Information of a Meeting at the House of John Linham, Justice Lowe granted a Warrant, by which was taken

	l.	s.	d.
From John Farnworth	6	0	0
John Linham and Edward Searson	1	15	0
John Wagstaffe	1	4	0
Thomas Valens	0	19	6
	9	18	6

About this Time certain Friends being met together at the House of one Samuel Rowe, in order to accompany him to the Burial of his Wife, two Informers, viz. John Wilson a Priest, and John Wagg a Collier, represented their meeting to Justice Lowe as a Conventicle, and procured his Warrant, by which were taken from Samuel Rowe, Goods worth 30 l. John Linham 6 l. 10 s. and John Blanton of Ilson 14 l. John Hanks was fined for himself and Wife's being at the Burial, and had his Goods taken for the same.

A Burial
deem'd a Con-
venticle.

John

DERBY-
SHIRE-
1685.

Fines for
Meeting.

Seizure of
Horses, Kine,
and Sheep.

Release of
J. Gratton.

J. Gratton's
Letter to the
Yearly Meet-
ing.

John Fletcher of *Tupton*, was fined 20*l.* for the Meeting-house there, and had his Goods seized for that Fine, though he had not any particular Property therein. Also *Nicholas Swift*, *Thomas Brocksupp*, *Susanna Fritb*, *John Clay*, and *Richard Clayton*, were fined for being at the said Meeting. *Edward Searson* was fined 20*l.* for preaching in a Meeting at *Clawson* in *Leicestershire*, and *John Linham* 5*s.* for his Wife's being there; for which Fines their Goods were taken to the Value of 24*l.* 10*s.* Also *John Gratton* and *John Rhodes*, fined 20*l.* each, for being at the same Meeting, had their Goods distrained to the Value of 40*l.*

In September this Year, *John Ward*, the under Sheriff's Deputy, and another Person, came armed to *Joseph Fritb's* House and demanded 120*l.* of him for six Months Absence from his Parish Church. They entered his Grounds, and drove away thirty Sheep, four Kine, two Foals, and three Horses. The Sheep and Kine being put by them into bad Pasture, broke out and came home again; but the Horses they sold for 10*l.* though worth 17*l.*

ANNO 1686. In the Beginning of this Year *John Gratton* was discharged from his Imprisonment, of above five Years and an half Continuance, for Absence from the publick Worship. During his Confinement he wrote an Epistle to his Friends at their Yearly Meeting in *London*, as follows, viz.

"Dear Friends and Brethren,
"MY sincere Love is to you all in the precious Truth, and for the Truth's
"Sake, in which pure Love I dearly salute you, and embrace you in
"my Arms, being with you in Spirit, and could much rejoice to have been
"with you in Person, being it's long since I enjoyed that Privilege. But I
"am well content, and am glad to feel that ancient Love and Life at this
"Time fill my Heart, while I am writing to you; in which methinks I
"even sit and view you in the Presence of the Lord, whose Glory hath
"often been seen to break forth upon you in a plentiful Manner in your
"Yearly Meetings: And my Faith in the Lord is, that he will in like Man-
"ner attend you still, and according to his ancient Manner be with you in all
"your Meetings: For his Love, Light, Life, Power, Goodness and Truth,
"is the same still, and changes not, that ever it was. And he will be with
"his own to the End of the World, and manifest his Power in our weak
"Vessels, by carrying us in his Arms of Strength to do his Will on Earth,
"and to serve, obey, and worship him in Spirit and in Truth: Glory, Praise,
"Thanks, Obedience and Worship be given to him for ever, for he alone is
"worthy: Blessed be his Name for ever, Amen.

"Dear Friends, there are no more Prisoners at *Derby Goal* but myself, that
"I think it meet to take much Notice of. 'Tis true, there were at the Ses-
"sions four Friends brought into Prison, viz. *Joseph Lee*, *George Creechlow*,
"George Berley, and *Edward Shackerly*, by a covetous Bayliff with a Sessions
"Process, and appeared, being called before the Justices, who said little to
"them, but asked, if they would come to Church? They answering No; the
"Bench bid the Goaler take them: But after the Sessions was done, they did
"privately hint their Minds to the Goaler, that they should go Home, and if
"they were called for they might come: So they are at Liberty thus far.
"Seeing our Justices are very kind and moderate to us, and have so been for
"some Years, I think it not meet to take Notice of this so as to make it
"publick. I leave it with you to do in it as you see good. So with dear Love
"to you all, I remain

"Your Friend in the everlasting Truth,

"JOHN GRATTON."

Remarks on
that Letter.

This Letter is an Instance of that cordial Love and Unity of Spirit which subsisted between the Sufferers in Prison and those of the same Persuasion who were at Liberty. It also shows how tender they were of the Reputation of other

other Men, being very cautious of relating or publishing any Thing to the Disadvantage of their Prosecutors, whensoever they could perceive them any Way inclined to good Temper and Moderation. This grateful Disposition of the Writer favours of a Spirit truly Christian, and is worthy of Regard and Commendation.

ANNO 1688. Taken this Year for Tithes, in Corn and other Goods,

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>Thomas Farnsworth</i>	1	9	6
<i>Joseph Frith</i>	4	5	0
<i>Samuel Tomlinson</i>	1	0	6
<i>Elizabeth Cundy</i>	0	12	0
<i>Richard Hancock</i>	2	6	0
<i>Robert Harrison</i>	6	11	0
<i>Thomas Lynam</i>	0	7	0
<i>John Gratton</i>	0	10	0
<i>John Holmes</i>	2	10	0
* <i>Josua Arnold</i>	17	5	0
<i>John Bower</i>	2	14	0
<i>Anthony Allen</i>	6	10	0
<i>Lady Rhodes</i>	27	15	0
<i>John Bently</i>	1	2	0
<i>William Bunting</i>	0	4	6
<i>John Frith</i>	3	0	6
	<hr/>		
	78	2	0

Tithes in Kind, &c.

M. Halstead
and T. Zaitz
house built
at Nagshead.

to Pimoth.

WENT.

THEIR EXAMINATION

ANNO 1689. Taken for Tithes, in Corn and other Goods,

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From Lady Rhodes	22	0	0
Joseph Lowe	2	10	8
John Gratton	0	10	0
Francis Bently	0	2	6
Samuel Johnson	0	7	0
Edward Booth	2	0	0
Robert Harrison	5	16	0
John Holmes	5	0	0
George Cricblow	0	4	0
William Bunting	0	9	0
Joseph Lee	0	5	6
	<hr/>		
	39	4	8

On the 19th of October this Year, Caleb Lee of Beighton was arrested for Tithes at the Suit of Samuel Gardener Priest, and committed to the County Goal, twenty Miles from his Wife and Family.

ANNO 1690. In this Year were taken from *Francis James, Joseph Frith, Joseph Lee, Anthony Woodward*, and others, for Tithes, Corn and other Things, to the Value of 16*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

* This large Sum was taken for an original Demand of 6 s. 8 d. per Annum for four Years Tithe.

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DEVONSHIRE

ANNO 1655

M. Halhead
and T. Salt-
house passed
as Vagrants.

MILES HALHEAD and Thomas Salthouse, travelling from their respective Habitations in Lancashire and Westmorland, with Intention to visit their Friends imprisoned at Cornwall, in their Passage through Devonshire were apprehended, and after fourteen Days close Confinement at Exeter, were by Warrant from Colonel Coplestone, then High Sheriff, ordered to be paid as Vagrants from thence to their own Dwellings: An illegal Proceeding against Men of Substance and Reputation, who travelled on Horseback, lodged at the best Inns, and paid punctually for what they had there. In their Passage betwixt Taunton and Bridgewater, the Officer charged with them was suddenly seized with a kind of Apopleckick Fit, which disabled him from going any farther. They returned to Taunton, and informed a Justice of the Peace of what had happened, desiring to know his Pleasure concerning them: He thereupon suspended any farther Execution of the Warrant, and set them at Liberty, wishing that the Lord might be with them.

Their Return
to Plymouth.

They went to Bristol, and came back to Plymouth about the Middle of the Month called May, where they had several Meetings; one of which was in the Garden of John Harris, his House being too little to contain the numerous Auditory: Their plain and powerful Preaching reached to the Consciences of many, and was generally well accepted. At the Close of the Meeting, one George Brooks, a Priest, Chaplain of the Nightingale Frigate, spake to the People in Commendation of what had been said, declaring it to be the Eternal Truth: But Thomas Salthouse, a Man of deep discerning, justly suspecting the Chaplain of Insincerity, told him, that he had spoken many good Words, but withal asked him, Whether he lived the Life of what he spoke, for that it was he who had the Witness in himself, that can set to his Seal that God is true. The Priest angry at this Reproof, meditates Revenge, and two Days after procured a Warrant from the Mayor, by which they were taken from a Meeting at the House of Robert Cary, and imprisoned in the Guildhall: Next Day they were brought before the Mayor, Magistrates, and Common-Council, who ordered the Doors to be shut during their Examination, which lasted three Hours; after which they remained in Custody several Days, while the Magistrates, who had determined to send them to the County Goal, were busied in forming a plausible Pretence for their Commitment. At first they charged them with denying the Trinity, of which they fully cleared themselves. Then the Oath of Abjuration was tendered them, but the Proclamation enforcing that Oath giving no Authority to imprison the Refusers, it was not thought proper to proceed thereupon. At length they made out the following Mittimus, viz.

An angry
Priest procures
their Imprison-
ment.

Their Exami-
nation.

“ DEVON.

“ John Page Merchant, Mayor of the Borough of Plymouth in the
“ County aforesaid, and one of his Highness's Justices of the Peace
“ within the said Borough, to the Keeper of his Highness's Goal at
“ Exon, or to his lawful Deputy in that Behalf, Greeting.

Commitment
to Exeter
Castle.

“ I SEND you herewith by the Bearer hereof, the Bodies of Thomas
“ Salthouse, late of Drugglibeck in the County of Lancaster, Husbandman,
“ and Miles Halhead, late of Kendal in the County of Westmorland, lately
“ apprehended

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“ apprehended here as Disturbers of the publick Peace, and for divers other
“ high Misdemeanors, against a late Proclamation prohibiting the disturbing
“ of Ministers, and other Christians in their Assemblies and Meetings, and
“ against an Ordinance of his said Highness the Lord Protector and his Coun-
“ cil, lately made against Duels, Challenges, and Provocations thereunto,
“ who have refused to give sufficient Security for their personal Appearance at
“ the next General Sessions of the Peace to be held for the County of Devon,
“ and in the mean Time to be of good Behaviour towards his Highness the
“ Lord Protector, and all his leige People.

“ These are therefore in his said Highness's Name, to will and command
“ you, that when the Bodies of the said Thomas Saltbouse and Miles Halhead
“ shall be unto you brought, you them safely keep and detain until by due
“ Course of Law they shall be delivered. Hereof fail not at your Peril.
“ Given under my Hand and Seal of Plymouth aforesaid, the 28th Day of May,
“ in the Year of our Lord God 1655.

“ John Page, Mayor.”

After six Weeks Imprisonment they were indicted at the Sessions, for a
Breach of the Ordinance against Duels, and particularly for divers disgraceful
Words and Gestures against George Brooks, Clerk of the Nightingale Frigate, &c.

Indictment at
Sessions.

To prove this Indictment Witnesses were provided, one of whom was
heard to say the Day before the Sessions, *I am going to Exeter to swear against
the Quakers, and if Swearing will do it, I will make them suffer soundly.* But the
Court did not chuse to bring the Matter to a fair Hearing: For though the
Prisoners pleaded *Not guilty*, and desired a Trial, yet because they used not
the common Form of Words, *By God and my Country*, their legal Plea was
refused, and no Trial granted. The Oath of Absuration was tendred them in
Court, to which they thus answered, “ In the Presence of the Eternal God,
“ and before all this People, we deny, with as much Detestation as any of
“ you, the Pope and his Supremacy, and the Purgatory therein mentioned,
“ and declare freely against it; and we do not deny to Swear because of any
“ Guilt that is upon us, but in Obedience to the Command of Christ, who
“ saith, *Swear not at all*, and we will not come under the Condemnation of
“ an Oath for the Liberty of the outward Man.” Upon this Refusal the
Court threatned to send into the North to seize their Estates according to the
Proclamation; but they let that drop, and only recorded their Proceeding
thus, “ Thomas Saltbouse and Miles Halhead, for provoking Words against
“ * George Brooks Clerk, who refused to be tried by the Country, fined 5*l.* a
“ piece, committed to Bridewell till Payment, and finding Sureties for their
“ good Behaviour.”

Pursuant to this Sentence they were removed on the 16th of the Month
called July from the County Goal to Bridewell, and a Guard of Soldiers placed
over them. with strict Orders, signed by one Captain Joyce, *to detain all that
should come to visit them, especially if they suspected them to be Quakers.* They
lay on the Ground in a close dark Room many Days; and were continued
near seven Months under such cruel Usage, as if their Persecutors designed to
destroy them, for they administered not any Thing to their Necessities, and
used their utmost Endeavours to prevent others from bringing them the com-
mon Necessaries of Life, and imprisoned several of those who came to see and
relieve them. But this extream Malice of their Enemies rendered the Christian
Charity of their Friends the more observable, who frequently hazarded the Loss
of their own Liberty to supply their Wants. During this Imprisonment Miles
Halhead writ the following Letter to his Friends, viz.

“ Dearly

* This Priest, whom it was so penal to provoke, had the Character of a common Drun-
kard, and a debauched Fellow, as appeared by Certificates from the Captains of Ships in
which he had been conversant.

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1655.

M. Halhead's
Letter to his
Friends.

“ Dearly beloved Friends and Brethren,

“ IN the North of England even to the South, the Land of our Nativity,
 “ whom the Lord God of Heaven and Earth hath called and chosen in
 “ this the Day of his everlasting Love, to serve him in Truth and in Right-
 “ teousness, who have received the Lord's Truth in the Love of it, not only
 “ to believe in his Name, but to suffer Bonds and Imprisonments, and hard
 “ Sentences for the Testimony of *Jesus*, and the Word of God. *Dear Friends*
 “ and beloved Brethren, my Prayers to the Lord God of Heaven and Earth,
 “ and my Soul's Desire is for you all, that you may all dwell together as Chil-
 “ dren of one Father, in the eternal Bond of Love, and Oneness of the Spirit,
 “ that you may all grow in the eternal living Truth of God, to be established
 “ upon the Rock and sure Foundation, that the Gates of Hell and Death
 “ cannot prevail against you, that under the Shadow of the Wings of the Al-
 “ mighty, you may all be kept and preserved in Peace and Rest, now in the
 “ Day of Trial and Hour of Darkness, when Hell hath opened her Mouth,
 “ and the raging Sea cast out her proud Waves, even like to overflow the
 “ Banks: Glory, Glory, and eternal living Praises be given to the Lord God,
 “ and to the Lamb for evermore, by all the Children of the Light, who hath
 “ found out a resting Place for all his dear ones, Lambs, and Babes, and Chil-
 “ dren of Light, to fly unto in the needful Time of Trouble, where none can
 “ make them afraid, nor take away their Peace, as they abide faithful to him,
 “ who is our Way, our Light, our Life, our Strength, and eternal Portion
 “ for ever. *My dear Friends and Brethren*, I beseech you in the Bowels of
 “ dear and tender Love, that you walk as dear Children, faithful to him who
 “ hath called you with an honourable Calling, and loved you from the Begin-
 “ ning with an everlasting Love, that all your Friends and Neighbours, and
 “ Men of this World, that see your Life coupled with Fear, may be made
 “ to confess and acknowledge, to the Honour and Glory of the living Lord,
 “ that the God whom ye serve and fear is the only true God of *Israel*; and
 “ herein you become a precious Saviour unto the living eternal God, and a sweet
 “ smelling Saviour unto all the Children of Light, and no good Thing will the
 “ Lord withhold from you: The Mouth of the Lord God of Hosts hath
 “ spoken it, whose Promises are *Yea* and *Amen* to his own Seed for evermore.

“ Given forth the 14th of the Sixth Month 1655, when I was Prisoner at the
 “ Prison-house in the City of Exeter in Devonshire, for the Testimony of
 “ *Jesus*, and the Word of God.

“ MILES HALHEAD.”

From the Stile and Import of this Letter, the Reader may observe the meek Spirit and Christian Temper of this patient Sufferer.

Cruel Usage
of M. Kellam.

We return to *Plimouth*, where we find an innocent Woman cruelly used by *Peter Ceely* Mayor: Her Name was *Margaret Kellam*, who on the 19th of December this Year was concerned to go to his House and tell him, *she had a Word from the Lord to him*: He bad her come in, heard her, and confessed, that what she said was very good and true. Nevertheless the Truth she uttered so displeased him that he sent her to Prison, where she was about a Week, and then at the Intercession of her Friends, had some Liberty granted her. But on the 4th of the next Month, about four in the Morning, a Constable and Serjeant came to her Chamber, broke open the Door, and refusing to shew their Warrant, took her away by Violence, tied a Rope about her, threw her on an Horse's Back, bound her Arms behind her, tied her Feet under the Horse's Belly, and carried her in that inhuman Manner ten Miles, (a monstrous Barbarity to a tender Woman of good Education, and a considerable Fortune:) Then they loosned her Cords, and told her they had a Warrant to carry her to *Exeter* Goal. There she lay till the Quarter Sessions, when Endeavours were used to get

Sent to Exeter
Goal.

get an Indictment drawn up against her ; but the Clerk of the Sessions, and others employed in that Work, could not agree about it, her manifest Innocence baffling their Attempt. After about two Months Imprisonment she was released by Order of the Sheriff.

In this Year also, *Priscilla Cotton* and *Margaret Cole* were imprisoned at *Exeter*, for speaking to the People in the publick Place of Worship, after the Priest had done.

ANNO 1656. The Imprisonment of several in this County, and others in *Cornwall*, induced many of their Brethren from several Parts of the Nation to visit them, and it was usual with some as they passed, to declare their own Experience of the Virtue of true Religion to the People : This alarmed the Justices, who made an Order of Sessions to apprehend, as Vagrants, all *Quakers* travelling without a Pass, in Consequence of which, above twenty Persons in the Months called *July* and *August* this Year, were sent to *Exeter Goal*, namely, *Elizabeth Cutland*, *Jane Bland*, *John James*, *James Naylor*, *Samuel Carter*, *John Brown*, *Lucy Field*, *Dorcas Erbery*, *Henry Goodman*, *Humphry Smith*, *Nicholas Gunnicliffe*, *Robert Crabb*, *Mary Erbery*, *Joseph Meader*, *Anne Harrison*, *William Bailey*, *John Bolton*, *Thomas Hawkins*, *Thomas Rawlinson*, *Jane Ingram*, *Mary Howgill*, and *Katharine Evans*. At the Assizes the Men, appearing with their Hats on, were indicted for a Contempt, brought in *Guilty*, fined twenty Marks, and remanded to Prison till Payment : The Women were also returned to Prison till they should find Sureties for their good Behaviour. They were lodged among the Felons, and lay generally on Straw, by Reason of which, and the Filth of the Place, many of them fell sick, and one of them, *Jane Ingram*, died.

At *Tiverton*, *Richard Waldren*, *Frances Gater*, *James Bynon*, and *Katharine Ball*, also *William Bale* and his Wife, were imprisoned by the Mayor several Days, for not paying 1 s. each, for Absence from the publick Worship. And at *Plimouth*, *Katharine Martindale*, for speaking to the People in the publick Assembly after the Priest had ended his Sermon, was sent to *Exeter Goal*, together with *Priscilla Cotton* who accompanied her. At the Assizes they were fined 50 l. each. For the like Cause *Barbara Pattison* and *James Myers* were imprisoned, as was *Thomas Layton* for uttering a Christian Exhortation to the People in the Market-place at *Tiverton*.

Joseph Cole, for speaking in the Place of publick Worship at *Exeter* these Words, viz. *Hear, O ye Priests, and give Ear, O ye Leaders of the People, the Lord's Hand is against you, who have caused the People to err, &c.* was committed to the *South-gate Prison*, double Ironed, and lay several Nights on the bare Ground. At the next Sessions he was banished the City, and afterwards grievously abused by the rude People at other Places.

ANNO 1657. On the 29th of the Month called *March* this Year, *Joseph Cole*, *Roger Brown*, *William Brown*, *Thomas Read*, and *John Boatfil*, were set in the Stocks at *Tiverton*, for being at a Meeting there : And *William Bale*, *John Waldron*, and *Edmund Baker*, suffered Distress of their Goods for being at the same Meeting ; as did also *Frances Gater*, who, after the Distress, for casually saying, that the Constables had plundered her House, and violently taken away her Goods, was imprisoned fourteen Days.

In this Year *Thomas Curtis*, a Clothier, or Woolen-draper, of *Reading* in *Berkshire*, being in this County about his trading Affairs, came to *Plimouth*, and from thence accompanied by *John Martindale*, went to *West-Alvington* : Being in Bed at a Friend's House, a Constable, and about ten others, came with a Warrant about Midnight, and next Day carried them before two Justices, who after Examination, (though they rendered a very good Account of themselves and their Business) sent them to *Exeter Goal* : On the 14th of the Month called *July*, they were brought to the Assizes, where nothing being laid to their Charge, the Judge, taking Occasion from their Hats, fined them 40 l. a piece for Contempt, for Non-payment of which they were kept Prisoners above a Year after : During this Imprisonment, *Martindale* having Leave of the Goaler to

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2 Other Women imprisoned.

Many put into Prison,

where they lay on Straw among Felons.

Persecution at Tiverton and Plimouth.

J. Cole laid in Irons.

Some set in the Stocks.

Others had their Goods seized.

Proceedings against T. Curtis and J. Martindale.

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Many taken up
by the Road as
they passed to
Meetings.

On the 1st of the Month called August, Joan Edmunds, Wife of Edward Edmunds of Totness, was stopt on the Road by a drunken Fellow, who took away her Horse: She complained to a Justice of the Peace, being then but about ten Miles from her own Home, but having no Pass, the officious Magistrate sent her to Exeter Goal, and ordered her Horse to be sold, and Part of the Money applied to defray the Charge of carrying her to Prison: Her Dwelling being in the direct Road to Exeter, they carried her by another Road six Miles about, to prevent the Neighbours Observation of the Injustice done her.

In like Manner, Humphry Smith and Samuel Curtis, riding near Axminster, were stopt, and carried before a Justice, who, consulting with a Priest, ordered them to be whipt as Vagrants, burnt their Books and Papers, took their Money from them, and sent them away with a Pass.

On the 24th of the same Month, Daniel Wastfield a Sope-boiler, and John Speed a Merchant, both of Bristol, accompanying Anne Curtis to see her Husband then in Exeter Prison, were taken in their Journey, and sent to Goal.

About the same Time, several Persons from Topsham, went, on the First-day of the Week, to Exeter Meeting, about three Miles; for which they were reputed Sabbath-breakers: The Men, Simon Morris and William Elliott, were set in the Stocks, and the Women, viz. Alice Shackerly, Judith Holme, Anne Morris, Elizabeth Taylor the Elder, Elizabeth Taylor the Younger, and Susanna Taylor, were put into the Back-grate or Cage, and there exposed to the Scorn and Derision of the People.

On the 30th William Elliot of Bridport, and his Son, of the same Name, going to visit Thomas Curtis in Prison, were sent for by the Magistrates, who sentenced the Father to be put in the Stocks, and the Son to be whipt with five Stripes: The Executioner, instigated by a wicked Constable, gave him six Stripes, which he bearing with great Patience, the barbarous Whipper said, Will thou not cry? I'll make thee cry: And then gave him six more bloody Stripes, so that many Spectators wept to see such Cruelty. The patient Sufferer, supported with Christian Magnanimity, avenged not himself on the wicked Actors of such Barbarity, but committed his Cause to him who judgeth righteously.

The like Inhumanity was exercised on Barbara Blagdon, who, in October this Year, was sent to Exeter Goal by the Mayor of Torrington. She was afterward at Sessions sentenced to be whipt, which Sentence was cruelly executed, but in the Midst of the Torture she rejoiced, and praised God who had enabled her to suffer for his Name.

About this Time Henry Pollexfen of West-Alvington, and Robert Weymouth of Marlborough, were imprisoned on a pretended Suspicion of Popery, but at the next Sessions were discharged.

So great was the Prejudice of many Magistrates against the Quakers, that they extended the Severity of Penal Laws beyond their due Bounds on purpose to oppress them. There was a Law requiring single Persons under forty Years of Age, having no other visible Means of Maintenance, to go out to Service. This Law was extended to the unjust Oppression of several sober and industrious

visit a Friend at Ilchester, went to a Meeting at Cullington, where he, with Humphry Sprague and Thomas Dyer lodged at a Friend's House. In the Evening two Constables came and required the Strangers to go with them, which, they having no Warrant, was refused. Next Morning they returned with a Warrant, and carried them before the Justices then at the Quarter Sessions at Hamton, to whom they gave an Account of their Abodes, being one of them but two Miles from Home, and another not above five: Howbeit the Justices sentenced them all as Vagrants, to be whipt in the Market-place, and sent with a Pass from Tything to Tything, which was accordingly done. Sprague and Dyer were soon at Home, and Martindale was conducted by Officers till he came within a Mile of Exeter, where they left him, and he returned alone to the Place of his Imprisonment.

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industrious Women, not because they had broke it, but because they were Quakers: On this Pretence *Agnes Light*, *Jane Light*, and *Elizabeth Light*, who had an House and Land of their own, and maintained themselves by their Industry, were sent to *Bridewell*, although two of them were above the Age mentioned in the Law. Under the like Pretence *Mary Witheridge* was taken from her aged Father, and sent to Prison; and *Eleanor Roberts*, an industrious Maid, was committed to *Bridewell*, where she lay two Nights on the bare Stones, and at the End of three Days was unmercifully whipt, and detained there six Months after.

ANNO 1658. On the 30th of the Month called *May*, *Anne Morris*, *Alice Shackerly*, *Judith Holme*, and *Elizabeth Taylor*, who came three Miles to a Meeting at *Exeter*, were by the Mayor's Order set in the Stocks many Hours, under Pretence of Sabbath-breaking.

William Hengiston of *West-Alvington*, and *Anthony Tucker* of *Ugborough*, returning Home from *Bristol*, staid on the First-day of the Week, being the 31st of *October*, at *Exeter*, where they were taken up, whipt as Vagrants, and sent away with a Pals.

On the 4th of *November*, *John Evans*, for giving Christian Exhortation to the People in their Worship-house at *Plimouth*, after the Priest had done, was imprisoned, and two Days after whipt through the Town, they having first kept him naked, from the Waist upward, three Quarters of an Hour, in a cold frosty Morning. After a cruel Whipping they sent him out of Town with a Pals.

In the same Month *John Rowett* of *Mevageesy* in *Cornwall*, being at *Tiverton*, was concerned to go into the Place of publick Worship there, and declare Truth to the People: His Christian Love was requited by Imprisonment for some Time: After which he was fined 5*l.* and continued in Prison till Midsummer in the next Year, when he was ordered to appear before a Committee of Parliament at *London*.

In this Year *Edward Braiford* was detained in Prison, for visiting his Friends in their Confinement.

About this Time also several Persons in this County, refusing to pay 1*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* demanded of them for Tithes, had their Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 5*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*

ANNO 1660. On the 20th of the 3d Month, a Meeting at *Tarleton* was insulted by a rude Rabble, animated by a Priest: Many of the Persons present were cruelly beaten and abused, so that some of them were unable for a Time to turn themselves on their Beds, they were so sore, and several Weeks past before they recovered.

Toward the End of this Year came on a general Imprisonment of this People, for refusing to take the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, which nothing hindred them from taking, but their Principle of Obedience to Christ's Precept, *Swear not at all*, which they believed expressly to prohibit all manner of Oaths. For this Cause *Nicholas Cole*, *Anthony Todd*, *Robert Cary*, *Arthur Cotton*, *Richard Luke*, *George Crocker*, *John Light*, *Edward Dyer*, and *Anthony Field*, who being taken from a Meeting at *Plimouth*, had the Oaths tendered them by the Mayor, and other Commissioners, and for refusing it were sent to Prison there on the 4th of the Month called *January* this Year, and on the 8th of the same were removed to the High Goal at *Exon*, and again on the 18th were sent from thence to the Prison of *Bridewell*.

On the 13th of that Month, *John Gunnicliffe*, *Mark Parsons*, *Edward Braiford*, *John Hancock*, and *Thomas Sheers*, were taken at a Meeting at *John Gunnicliffe's* House, and, for refusing the Oath, sent to the South-gate Prison in *Exon*; as were on the 15th and 18th of the same Month, *Joseph Hilliar*, *Nicholas Tripe*, *Gregory Powel*, *Alexander Richards*, and *Nicholas Worth*, who were taken from their lawful Occupations in the City of *Exon*.

On the 19th, *Abel Down*, *Richard Ould*, *John Chapell*, and *Robert Elliott*, all of *Cullumpton*, were taken from their Employments by Soldiers, who brought them

4 Women put
in the Stocks.

Reputable Men
whipt.

Cruel Whip-
ping of John
Evans.

J. Rowett's
Imprisonment.

Distress for
Tithes.

Abuses by the
Rabble.

General Im-
prisonment for
refusing to
Swear.

Taken at Pli-
mouth.

At Exeter.

At Cullump-
ton.

DEVON-
SHIRE.
1660.

At Oakhampton.

At divers
other Places.

Prisons
thronged.

Constancy of
Women.

Seizures.

them to *Copleston Bamsfield* then Sheriff, who committed them to the *Bridewell* aforefaid; whither also on the same Day, *Christopher Richards, Giles Brice, Richard Linington, John Brice, John Hutchins, and Bartholomew Weeks*, all of them Inhabitants of *Bradnitch*, were committed by the Mayor of that Place.

On the same Day *Anthony Moral* was, by the Mayor of *Oakhampton*, committed to the High Goal near the Castle of *Exon*, where were then Prisoners *John Martindale, Francis Rolle, Ralph Fogg, Peter Row, John Westlake, and Richard Smith*, all of *Plimouth*, who had been sent thither a few Days before by the Mayor and other Commissioners of that Town.

On the 20th, *Roger Brown* and *Samuel Doak* of *Tiverton*, visiting a sick Neighbour, were taken in his House and carried to the Sheriff, who sent them to *Bridewell*: And on the same Day *Thomas Carter, Gabriel Morley, and Thomas Leighton*, all of *Cullumpton*, as they were going to a Meeting were stoppt by a Watchman, and had before a Justice of the Peace, who for refusing the Oaths, sent them to the High Goal at *Exon*: To which Prison also were sent the same Day for the same Cause, *Thomas Dyer, William Ferris, Thomas Wilkins, Bartholomew Alford, Edward Townsend, Gideon Daniel, Josias Limbery, Richard Newberry, George Bowditch, Humphry Sprague, William Wilkins, Richard Alford, James Kenway, George Fry, Thomas Sprague, Josias Limbery jun. and George Clapp*, who were taken by one Captain Fry and others, armed with Swords and Pistols, out of the House of *William Robins*, where they were met for the Worship of God. Two others, *William Poole* and *John Grubham*, were taken at *Axminster*, as they were going to the same Meeting, and sent to the same Prison, whither also were committed that Day from *Plimouth* by *Oliver Ceely* Mayor, *Richard Lippincott, John Harris, and Francis Light*, who were taken from a Meeting there, and *John Thomas*, taken out of his Mother's House.

On the 23d *Richard Jacob* of *Sampford*, an Apprentice, was taken from his Work in his Masters Shop, and carried before a Justice, who tendered him the Oaths, and on Refusal sent him to the High Goal aforefaid.

On the 27th *Jacob Philips, Robert Weymouth, Hugh Weymouth, Edward Ball, and Stephen Rule*, were taken from a Meeting at *Henry Pollexfen's* House, and carried before a Justice, who ordered them to come again next Morning, which they did, when another Justice being with him, they tendered them the Oaths, and on Refusal sent them to the said High Goal.

On the 10th of the Month called *March*, *Hercules Fry, and John Perkins*, both of *Cullumpton*, were taken at *Bradnitch*, as they were going homeward, and by the Mayor committed to the *Bridewell* aforefaid.

The Prisons of the High Goal and *Bridewell* at *Exon* were now thronged, above seventy Persons having been committed in about two Months Time, among whom were all the Men Inhabitants of that Persuasion in *Plimouth*. The Women nevertheless constantly continued their Meetings for Worship, which the Mayor observing, sent for them and asked them, *why they met contrary to the King's Command?* They answered, *that they did it not in Contempt of Authority, but in Discharge of their Duty to God, in whose Fear they met to wait upon and worship him in Spirit and in Truth; that if in so doing they had broken the Law, they were ready to show their Submission by patient Suffering.* The Mayor then proposed to them *to be engaged for one anothers good Behaviour*, to which they replied, *that they had been guilty of no ill Behaviour, as the People of the Town, who knew their Conversations, could witness.* Their Christian Courage and Constancy made such an Impression on the Mayor, that he dismiss them only with Threats, that if they were brought before him again, he would send them to Prison.

In this and the next preceding Year, several Persons in this County for small Demands made on them of *Church-Rates* and *Easter-Offerings*, to the Value of 18 s. 5 d. had their Goods taken from them to the Amount of 5 l. 0 s. 8 d.

ANNO

ANNO 1661. On the 28th of the Month called *April*, the Constables of *Cullumpton*, with one Captain *Prowse*, and a rude Rabble attending them, came to the Meeting there, pulled the Friends from their Seats, threw them on the Ground, and dragged them along the Streets, kept some of them at an Inn with a Guard of Soldiers all Night, and would not let them have Lodging for their Money. Next Day they carried them before some Justices, who, for refusing to Swear, sent fifteen of them to Prison, namely, *Humphry Sprague*, *Thomas Dyer*, *Richard Jacob*, *Roger Brown*, *Samuel Deeke*, *John Hutchins*, *Thomas Burgoign*, *John Brice*, *Christopher Richards*, *Bartholomew Weeks*, *Richard Linington*, *Christopher Osmond*, *George Parnel*, *Thomas Carter*, and *Alexander Richards*, at whose House they were met: And at the same Time the Justices issued a Warrant to distrain their Goods for the Charges of conveying them to Goal.

DEVON-
SHIRE.
1661.

15 Sent to
Prison from
Cullumpton
Meeting.

On the 14th of the Month called *July*, *Joseph Cole*, taken out of a Meeting at *William Glanfield's* in *Talliton*, was kept under a Guard all Night, and next Day sent to Goal for refusing the Oaths.

We mentioned before that divers were taken from their lawful Business in their own Houses, which were sometimes searched very rudely, as appears by

" *A Relation of searching the House of MARK PARSONS of Topsham.*

" ON the Day last mentioned, near twenty Soldiers came into his House with drawn Swords, affrighting the Family, and threatening to run the Man-servant through if he spake a Word. They broke open the Lock of his Chamber-door, and carried away several Letters and Papers to his Prejudice, and suffered all manner of disorderly Persons to go into the House, without any Constable, or Officer of the Peace. They pulled off the Bed-clothes from a Merchant, who lay there sick in Bed, and would have taken him out of the Bed and carried him away, had not the Master of a Vessel, which he had freighted, satisfied them concerning him. A Friend from *Plimouth* being there about Business, they put their Swords to his Breast, presented their Pistols, threatened him with Death, and treated him very inhumanly."

*A Relation of
searching the
House of M.
Parsons of
Topsham.*

ANNO 1662. On the 21st of the Month called *August*, a Meeting at *Plimouth* was broken up by an Officer with Soldiers, who produced no Warrant, but by Violence thrust out those that were met; they pulled away *Samuel Dyer* by the Hair of his Head, beat him with a great Cane, and tore the Clothes from his Back: After which they carried him with *Nicholas Cole*, *Francis Light*, and *John Perriman*, before the Mayor and another Magistrate, who ordered them to come again next Day, when they sent them to the County Goal at *Exon*, for being at a Conventicle, and holding it unlawful to Swear in any Case.

Several taken
by Soldiers,
and afterward
imprisoned.

In like manner, on the 20th of the next Month, two Constables and a Churchwarden, attended by a Serjeant and armed Soldiers with lighted Matches, came to a Meeting at *Plimouth*, and with Violence haled the Friends, then on their Knees at Prayer, out of the Place, dragging both Men and Women to the Mayor, who, after many Threats, fined them 12 d. each. for Absence from their Parish-Church, which refusing to pay, they were kept Prisoners in the Town-Hall several Days.

Forcible break-
ing up a Meet-
ing at Pli-
mouth.

On the 26th of *October*, twenty five Persons, viz. *John Price*, *Christopher Richards*, *Bartholomew Weeks*, *John Richards*, *Samuel Glas*, *Julian Miller*, *Elisba Richards*, *Mary Potter*, *Mary Morgan*, and *Alice Cummings*, all of *Bradnitch*; *William Jacob* of *Bampton*; *Richard Jacob*, *Christopher Osmond*, *Ciphe Roads*, and *Elisba Hunsden*, all of *Halberton*; *Roger Brown*, *Robert Avery*, *Clare Arundell*, and *Grace George*, all of *Tiverton*, *Humphry Sprague* of *Gittesham*, *Susanna Glanfield* of *Talliton*, *Edward Braiford*, *Anne Seers* and *Mary Thorn*, of *Exeter*, and *John Hutchins* of *Holcomb-Regis*, being met for religious Worship in the House of *John Elliot* at *Cullumpton*, Constables came to take them, by

25 Sent to
Prison.

DEVON-
SHIRE.
1662.

Commitments
of R. Green-
way and
others.

Abuses of the
Goaler.
Magistrates
Severity.

Hard Usage of
two Strangers
at an Inn.

no other Warrant, than a general Order to apprehend Strangers: This Order not concerning them who were no Strangers, but all well known, they were not willing to go: Upon which the Constables placed a Watch at the Door, and kept them Prisoners in the House two Days, when the Justices came to Town, and sent them to Prison for *Breach of the Conventicle Act*. The Constables, in Order to convey them to Goal, hired Carriages in the Neighbourhood, the Owners of which, when they knew the Use they were for, would not let them go, so that the Prisoners, having been kept four Days in the Room where the Justices sat, were then set on Horseback, and carried to *Exeter*.

In this Year *Richard Greenway* of *London*, travelling in this County, was taken up by the Watch, who carried him before two Justices, and they, after tending him the Oath of Allegiance, sent him to Prison.

In the same Year also *John Bellamy* and *Mary Anderdon* were taken out of a Meeting at the House of *Thomas Yelland* in *Oakhampton*, and by the Mayor and another Justice committed to Prison.

During the Imprisonment of the Persons beforementioned, some who came to visit them were much abused by the Goaler, and kept two Days and two Nights in the Goal: A Woman who came from *Wales* to see her Brother in Prison, was cruelly whipt, by the Magistrate's Order, as a Vagabond, and sent away with a Pass. *John Chapell* and Twenty others, were kept on the Guard all Night; nor would they knowingly suffer any *Quakers*, not Inhabitants, to lodge in the Town.

ANNO 1663. On the 4th of October, *Arthur Cotton*, *Francis Rowle*, *Peter Brown*, *Priscilla Thomas*, *George Crocker*, *Anthony Todd*, *Nicholas Cole*, *Richard Smith*, *John Light*, and *Edward Limbery*, all of them Inhabitants of *Plimouth*, taken by a Constable out of a Meeting there, were fined 12 d. each by the Mayor and another Justice, for Absence from the publick Worship, and had their Goods taken by Distress for the Fines, to near five Times the Amount of them.

ANNO 1664. On the 17th of the Month called *May*, *Christopher Bacon* and *Edward Braiford*, lodging at the House of *Joane Edmunds*, who kept an Inn at *Totness*, some Friends came thither to visit them, and as they sat together, discoursing about Matters of Religion, several Constables rushed into the Room, seized the two Strangers, and carried them to the Mayor; another Friend present going with them: The Mayor sent them all three to Prison, where they were confined in a Place about four Yards in Length and two in Breadth, where they lay on the Stones two Nights. There was a Window to the Place, and some Persons came and talked with them, and were pleased with their religious Discourse: The Mayor, displeased at that, sent a Constable and others to remove them, who first rifled their Pockets, and then took *Christopher Bacon* by Violence, and threw him out at the Door, and then dragged him by the Legs and Arms through the Kennels of the Street toward the Town-Hall, in a manner so barbarous as to move Compassion in some of their Company, who cried out, *They are Christians; for Shame use them like Men*. Then they took him up, carried him through the Town-Hall, and threw him into a Place called the *Dark-house*, where they also put the said *Edward Braiford* and *Michael Lea*, and shut two Doors upon them. One of their Persecutors said, *They would soon be smothered there*, for the Place was so close and dark, that they could scarce see one another at Noon, and the Excrements of other People had been emptied there, which caused a grievous Stink: In this filthy Hole they were kept eleven Hours, and none suffered to come at them (only one Friend who privately conveyed them a little Meat through an Hole in the Wall) so that *Christopher Bacon*, being bruised and hot with their ill Usage, was very sick, and the other two almost spent for lack of Air. At length the Mayor ordered them the Liberty of the Town-Hall; whence, after three Days, they were sent to *Exeter* Goal; whither, as the Constable said, the Mayor had ordered them to be carried bound with Cords on an Horse with Panniers. The Constable and his Attendants, before their Removal, rifled their Pockets, took

took away 12s. from one of them, and their Coats off their Backs, to defray the Charge of carrying them to Goal,

ANNO 1665. On the 23d of the Month called April, eighteen Persons, namely, Robert Cary, Nicholas Cole, Thomas Lane, Arthur Cotton, John Light, George Crocker, John Westlake, Peter Rowe, John Thomas, Edward Dyer, Edward Limbery, Anthony Todd, Richard Luke, Francis Rowle, Richard Smith, Richard Fox, Richard Stephens, and John Harris, taken at a Meeting in Plimouth, and refusing to pay a Fine of 10s. each, imposed by the Mayor and another Justice, were committed to Bridewell. And on the 30th of the Month called January, Nicholas Cole was sent to Prison, and detained there thirteen Days, for having opened his Shop on that Day.

ANNO 1666. On the 26th of the Month called August, the first of the Week, a Serjeant with Soldiers came to the Meeting at Plimouth, and sent for the Mayor and other Magistrates, who committed George Crocker, Edward Dyer, Robert Cary, John Light, Arthur Cotton, John Westlake, Francis Rowle, Richard Fox, John Tongs, Anthony Todd, John Harris, John Perriman, Richard Luke, Richard Stephens, and Ralph Fogg, to Prison: After ten Days they were brought to the Guild-hall, and fined, some 5s. and others 10s. each, and for refusing to pay, sent to Bridewell.

ANNO 1670. In the Month called May this Year, Arthur Cotton, John Light, Peter Rowe, John Perriman, Ralph Fogg, Richard Smith, George Crocker, Francis Rowle, Edward Limbery, John Shelson, Richard Stephens, Robert Carey, Bartholemew Alger, and Thomas Lane, for assembling in their religious Meetings at Plimouth, suffered Distress of their Goods to the Value of 14l. 7s. 4d. On the 25th of the Month called July, John Dale was committed to the Bridewell in Exon, for being absent from the publick Worship, and during his Imprisonment was several Times pulled out of his Room, and compelled to be present at the Sermons usually preached to the Prisoners, by a Priest employed for that Purpose.

In this Year also, Alexander Richards of Cullumpton, was imprisoned on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo for refusing to take the Sacrament, and continued Prisoner near twenty Months. In like manner William Jacob, a poor labouring Man, for not attending the publick Worship, was imprisoned and detained near two Years.

On the 11th of September a religious Meeting was held at the House of Elizabeth Phillips of West-Alvington, Widow, of which Information being given to John Biere a Justice of the Peace, he granted several Warrants directed to the Officers of the several Parishes of West-Alvington, Marlborough, South-Huish, and Kingsbridge, all of like Tenour and Import, viz.

“ Devon’rs.

“ To the Constables, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor of the
“ Town of Kingsbridge, and to every of them.

“ IN Pursuance of an Act of Parliament intituled, *An Act for the providing farther and more speedy Remedies against the growing and dangerous Practices of seditious Sectaries, &c.* These are therefore in his Majesty’s Name to will and require you, presently upon Sight hereof, to repair to the several Houses of Nicholas Tripe the Elder, Stephen Rule the Younger, William Rule, Mary Randall, and Roger Mitchel Cordwainer, all of the said Town, and demand of them the several Sums hereafter mentioned, viz. of Nicholas Tripe 3l. 5s. which 5s. is his own Penalty, for that it appeared to me by notorious Circumstances, and Oath of two or more Witnesses, that the said Nicholas Tripe was at a Conventicle and unlawful Assembly, held in the House of one Elizabeth Phillips Widow, on Sunday the 11th of September Instant, and the other 3l. for that it appeared to me by notorious Circumstances, that there was Teaching among them, which Teacher is unknown or fled: “ And

DEVON-SHIRE.

1665.

18 Recommitted to Bridewell.

15 Sent to Prison.

Distresses for Meeting.

A Prisoner compelled to attend the Worship in the Goal.

Distress on a Widow for Meetings at her House.

Form of Warrants granted.

DEVON-
SHIRE.
1670.

“ And you are to demand of *Stephen Rule* the Elder 15s. 5s. for his own
“ Offence as above said, and 10s. for the Poverty of *Joane Pollexfen* Widow,
“ and *Mary Brangwin* of your Parish; and *Stephen Rule* the Younger 15s.
“ 5s. for himself, and 5s. for his Wife, and the other 5s. for *Hingston* of your
“ Town also: And you are to demand likewise of *William Rule* 1l. 5s. of
“ *Mary Randall* 15s. and of *Roger Mitchell* 15s. 5s. each of them for their
“ own Offences, the rest for the Poverty of *Edward Ball*, *Tamafine Harris*,
“ *Richard Perrott*, *Grace Yeoman*, *John Weymouth* and his Wife, *Amy Brocking*
“ and *Sarah* her Daughter, all of the Parish of *Marlborough*, found and con-
“ victed for being at the said Conventicle above said, and upon Refusal to pay
“ the several Sums it shall and may be lawful, and you are hereby required
“ to levy the same upon each so refusing by Distress and Sale of their Goods,
“ and you are required to make a speedy Return of this Warrant, and certify
“ your Doings herein, whereof you may not fail at your Perils. Given under
“ my Hand and Seal the 17th Day of *September* 1670.

“ *John Biere.*”

The Warrant for *West-Alvington* was under-written thus: “ Upon Refusal
“ to open the Doors it shall and may be lawful, and you are hereby required
“ to break open their Doors, and this shall be your Discharge.” Accordingly
Owen Edwards and *Philip Lome* Constables, with *John Biere* the Justice's
Cousin, and *Richard Tucker* the other Informer, who went by the Name of
Leach, with six other Persons, came to the House of *Elizabeth Phillips*, and de-
manded 20l. *Biere* broke open the Back-door, at which *Tucker* entered, and
let in the rest: They took away her Goods, which they shared among them-
selves at Pleasure, leaving neither Bedding nor Bed-clothes for her four small
Children to lodge in, and her Servants, for several Nights, were obliged to lie
on Pease-Straw. The Goods levied by Distress for that Meeting were valued
as follows, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>Elizabeth Phillips</i>	31	11	1
<i>Richard March</i>	10	5	0
<i>Nicholas Tripe</i> , <i>William Rule</i> , and <i>Mary Randall</i>	9	11	10
<i>Robert Weymouth</i> and <i>John Edwards</i> of <i>Marlborough</i>	26	3	9
<i>Roger Jarvis</i>	6	0	0
And from <i>Stephen Rule</i> , all his Goods, worth but	2	0	0
	85	11	8

The Warrants, which authorized these Distresses, were grossly erroneous,
having charged 20l. for a pretended Preacher, though the Meeting was held
in Silence, and having imposed Fines on others for the Poverty of two Persons,
one of whom was not there, and the other had been dead several Years:
Wherefore some of the Sufferers made their Appeal to the Quarter Sessions, as
follows, viz.

“ DEVON. *West-Alvington*, *Marlborough*, *South-Huish*, and *King-*
“ *bridge* Parishes. Sept. 29. 1670.

An Appeal to
the Quarter
Sessions.

“ WE whose Names are under subscribed, do hereby certify and declare,
“ that the Constables, Wardens, and Overseers of the Parishes above said,
“ did by Warrant from *John Biere*, one of the King's Justices of the County
“ of *Devon*, distrain several Particulars of Goods from us, for our being (as
“ they said) at a Conventicle, and for a Teacher, the Sum of 21l. 10s. which
“ Preacher, or Teacher among the People, assembled together the 11th Day
“ of *September*, in the House of *Elizabeth Phillips* of *West-Alvington* above said,
“ (as they say) is unknown or fled. Therefore according to the Privilege and
“ Liberty

“ and Liberty of the Act in such Case provided and allowed, we do make
“ our Appeals, as Persons aggrieved, for to be presented to the Justices of the
“ next Quarter Sessions. And we do demand a Copy of the Depositions
“ against us.

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1670.

*Nicholas Tripe William Rule Roger Jarvis
John Edwards Richard March Robert Weymouth.
Hugh Weymouth Mary Randall*

A Copy of the Depositions was obtained, viz.

“ DEVON.

“ *The several Informations of Richard Leach, Daniel Arnold,
“ John Biere, and John Lucas, taken upon Oath before me
“ JOHN BIERE, one of the King's Justices for the County
“ aforesaid, the 14th of September 1670.*

“ **T**H E S E Informers upon Oath say, that upon Sunday the 11th of Sep- *Depositions.*
“ *tember Instant, coming toward the House of one Elizabeth Phillips of*
“ *Batten in the Parish of West-Alvington, they saw a Boy running before them*
“ *to the said House, as these Informers believe, to give Notice to the People*
“ *of the House of their Coming, and these Informers coming into the said*
“ *House, found there assembled about fourscore Persons (as they suppose) sitting*
“ *upon Forms and Seats in the Hall of the said House: Upon the higher End*
“ *of the Table lay a Bible. These Informers asking the Reason of their being*
“ *there, they told them, It was to worship God, and that theirs was the right,*
“ *ours the wrong Way of Worship.*

“ *Jo. Biere.*”

At the Sessions in October, Thomas Carey being Chairman, the Appeal was
tried: The Appellants Council insisted, that there was *no Preaching at the*
Meeting, that the Information was erroneous, and the Fines wrongfully levied.

The Informers being called into Court and sworn, the Trial proceeded, viz.

Chairman. John Biere, What can you say in this Business?

Biere. An't like your Worship, as I was going towards Mrs. Phillips's
House, I saw a Boy running before, and I believe, to give Notice to the People
that we were coming; so when we came into the House, I saw about fourscore
Persons sitting on Forms and Chairs, and that is as much as I can say.

Councillor. I desire to know whether this Man be an Informer or a Witness?

Chairman. Why would you know?

Councillor. If he be a Party concerned, he is not to be taken as a Witness, ac-
cording to Law.

Chairman. John Biere, What say you? You hear what Councillor Yeard
says, Are you an Informer, or a Witness?

Biere. No, Sir, I am a Witness. Though indeed he had before given in
his Deposition as an Informer.

Chairman. John Lucas, What can you say?

Lucas. An't please your Worship, I saw a Boy run before into the House.

Chairman. What House?

Lucas. Mrs. Phillips's House.

Chairman. What then?

Lucas, Sir, when we, with the Constables, came in, we saw abundance of
People; some sat on Forms and Benches, some on Chairs, and some round the Table:
And I saw a Man stand at the higher End of the Table, and a Bible lay before
him, and there were several People stood up, and leaned their Shoulders toward
that Man, as if they would hide him, and we asked them, What they did there?
They answered, To worship and serve God; and that, theirs was the true Way

*Trial of the
Appeal.*

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SHIRE.
1670.

of Worship, and ours the false; and that, if we did worship God in their Worship, it would be better for us than it was.

The next Evidence was Tucker.

Chairman. What can you say?

Tucker. *An't like your Worship, I being at Alvington Church, after Sermon the Constable required me to go with him: Mrs. Phillips's Boy stood in the Church-yard, and I believe the Boy heard what we said: So the Boy went away, and I, with the rest, went to the House.*

Chairman. What House?

Tucker. *Mrs. Phillips's House: And when we came on the Green, I saw a Boy running down to the House. So we stood still a little while, then we went down, but, before we came in, the Boy, as I believe, had given them Notice of our coming; and when we came in we saw about three or four score Persons, some sitting on Chairs and Forms round the Table, and I saw a Man stand at the higher End of the Table, and a Bible lay before him, and the People leaned their Shoulders toward him, I suppose, to hide him; some asked, What they did there? They said, To worship and serve God: And this is all that I can say.*

N. B. The aforesaid Persons, being both Informers and Witnesses, seem to have concerted their Story; for they agreed in what was notoriously false, there being no Persons standing up, nor any Bible, or other Book, upon the Table.

Chairman. Have you any more Witnesses?

Answer. Yes, Sir, one more.

Then came forth *Walter Campion* a Black-Smith.

Chairman. What can you say in this Affair?

Campion. Sir, *I have been among them several Times.*

Chairman. Were you with them since the 10th of May?

Campion. Yes, Sir, *on the Green.*

Chairman. But were you with them the 11th of September?

Campion. No, Sir; *but formerly, Sir, I have been among them, and where, they say, they had no Preacher or Teacher: An't like your Worship, Sir, they are all Teachers, for, they say, they are moved by the Spirit. There is Mrs. March, Mrs. Phillips, Robert Weymouth, John Edwards, he is Recorder of the Marriages, Births, and Burials; and for their Teachers, I know them well enough, there is Salthouse and Christopher Bacon, and a Woman called Fell, and George Fox, Cordwainer.*

Chairman. How do you know them?

Campion. *I know them very well, for I do shoe their Horses.*

Justices. This is a counterfeit Quaker.

Councillor Shapcott. This is an Impudent Fellow, I never saw such an impudent Fellow in all my Days.

Campion. *They have their Fifth-day Meeting, which is their silent Meeting-day, and their First-day Meeting, which is their Preaching-day, and then they do all preach.*

Some of the Justices. They are no Observers of Days, nor do they chuse one Day to be silent, and another to preach.

Another Justice. If there had been Preaching among them, they would not have fled, for they are of a more noble Spirit than so. When I was at London, there was a great Meeting, the Drums beating, with a great Company about them, yet he that preached kept on preaching. Therefore, I believe there was no Preaching or Teaching among them, for he would not have fled, as they say.

Then the Witnesses for the Appellants were called, who agreed in their Evidence, that there was no Preaching at that Meeting, nor any Bible on the Table. The Person, whom the Informers had seen at the upper End of the Table, appearing in Court, and testifying himself to be the Man, and that he preached not.

A Certificate was also produced in Court from one of the Constables, who went with the Informers, being as follows,

THESE

DEVON-
SHIRE.
1670.

“THESE are to certify, that I, the Constable of *West-Alvington*, do
“ hereby testify and declare, that when I came into the House of Mrs.
“ *Phillips*, Widow, in the Parish of *West-Alvington*, with the Informers, the
“ 11th Day of *September*, I never saw, nor heard Sound of Words, nor
“ Preaching, nor Teaching, among the People there assembled together, nor
“ did I see a Bible or Book on the Table; this I shall testify on Oath, when
“ called thereunto. Given under my Hand the 1st Day of *October* 1670.

Witness, *James Jarvis*.

“ *Owen Edwards*. ”

The Chairman, summing up the Evidence to the Jury, said, *It was very near an equal Balance*. The Jury seemed divided in their Sentiments, and held a long Debate, before they could agree. But at length the Foreman and some others over-ruling the rest, a *Verdict* was given against the *Appellants*, by means of which the *Illegality* of their *Suffering* was aggravated by the *additional Charge* of their *Appeal* and *Trial*.

Verdict against the Appellants.

At the same Sessions, next Day, came on the Hearing of a particular *Appeal* of *Mary Randall*, who was distrained by that Warrant, wherein Fines were laid for one Person who was absent, and another who was dead. This being clearly proved, the Warrant was judged illegal, and the Court ordered her Money to be returned, which the convicting Justice promised to do, but never did: Instead of Restitution, he shortly after granted another Warrant against her for a pretended Offence of the like Nature.

Appeal of M. Randall.

By these Instances of Appeals may appear the exceeding Hardship of the Sufferers Case, who, in the clearest Causes of just Complaint, were still aggrieved, either through the Partiality of *corrupt Juries*, or the Neglect of the Justices in putting their own Decrees into due Execution, when in favour of the Appellant.

Remarks on these Appeals.

In this Year, for two several Meetings at *Batten Green*, Distresses were made on the Goods of *Robert Weymouth*, *William Hingston*, *Mary Randall*, *Roger Mitchell*, *Stephen Rule*, *William Rule*, and *Elizabeth Adams*, to the Value of 19l. 2s. 6d.

Distresses.

In this Year also *Jonathan Collier* died a Prisoner under Sentence of Excommunication, for refusing to pay a *Church-Rate*.

Death of J. Collier.

ANNO 1671. A Letter dated the 30th of the Sixth Month this Year, was sent from several Prisoners in *Stoke-Cannon* to the Judges of Assize, held at the Castle of *Exon*, viz.

“ *Friends*,

“ WE whose Names are subscribed have thought fit to lay before you our
“ Conditions, who are Prisoners in the Sheriff's Prison for the County
“ of *Devon*, where we have not the Benefit as Prisoners in other Cases, that
“ are great Offenders, who have the Liberty of being brought before you,
“ (you being sent of the King to free the Goal of Prisoners) and though we
“ are cast into this Prison which is for Debtors, yet no Man charges us with
“ any Thing of that Nature, or if any Thing, we are ready to make Satis-
“ faction: But for the Lord's and Truth's sake, and for keeping our Con-
“ sciences clear, and not for doing the King hurt, or any of his Subjects, we
“ have been excommunicated, and by the Bishop's Court cast into Prison, by
“ which Course of theirs, some have been kept Prisoners in this Prison *four*,
“ *five*, and some *six* Years, until they have had but little to help themselves,
“ and their Adversaries no Hope of getting any Thing from them: But
“ whether such Practices of theirs be consonant with the Practices of the true
“ Apostles and Ministers of Christ, or answer to that Meekness manifested
“ by them in instructing those that did oppose themselves, or whether they
“ would be so dealt with for worshipping God as they are persuaded, let our
“ Enemies themselves be Judges. Now, that our Condition may be known,
“ and

A Letter to the Judges of Assize.

DEVON-
SHIRE.
1671.

“ and weighed in an equal Balance by you, and so come to a Sense of our
“ Sufferings, and thereupon raised up to shew Mercy (as God is merciful) in
“ removing those Yokes and Pressures, which our Families, being great, are
“ like to suffer, by reason of their Maintenance depending chiefly on our
“ Labour, to which it is well known by many of this City we have not been
“ wanting whilst at Liberty. We have given a short Account of our Sufferings,
“ hoping you will look thereon, and be found doing the Thing that is just,
“ and whilst ruling among Men, to rule in the Fear of God, which the Light
“ of Christ, the higher Power in all, leads into, as to it the Soul becomes
“ subject; which that you may all be, and the Sword turned against the Trans-
“ gressor, and the evil Doer punished, and we live a quiet and peaceable Life
“ in all Godliness and Honesty, is the Prayer and Desire of us who are Pri-
“ soners for the Word of God, and the Testimony of Jesus.

Thomas Force

William Jacobs

Thomas Saunders

John Davie, &c.

House broke
open.

One of those who were thus confined was *John Gunnicliff*, who by a Writ
de Excommunicato capiendo was cast into Prison, and detained there seventeen
Months. A little before his Commitment he was fined 20*l.* for permitting a
Meeting at his House, and suffered Distress of his Goods; to seize which, they
broke open his House, and took away more than the Value of the Fine, a
small Part of which were returned him again very much damaged.

In this Year also *Nicholas Tripe*, for a Meeting at his House in *West-Alvington*,
suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 35*l.* And *William Hingston*, for Fines for
himself and others, had his Goods taken away to the Amount of 16*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*
as had likewise *James Coker*, to the Value of 4*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*

Release of Pri-
soners.

ANNO 1672. The deplorable Condition of great Numbers of this suffer-
ing People, who at this Time filled most of the Prisons in *England*, being
represented to the King, and their Constancy and Patience pleading their in-
nocent Cause, Letters Patent under the great Seal were issued for the discharging
many of them, by Virtue of which, *Alexander Richards*, *William Jacobs*, *John*
Gunnicliff, *Samson Lark*, *Roger Roe*, *John Adams*, *Francis Hart*, *William Fa-*
cey, *Thomas Egberr*, and *Mary Price*, were released out of the County Goal,
and *John Jennett*, *Edward Edden*, and *Elizabeth Stevens*, out of the City Prison
at *Exeter*.

Sufferings for
Tithes,

ANNO 1674. *Robert Welch* of *Uffculum*, was committed to Prison at the
Suit of *James Holloway* an Impropiator, for 7*l.* demanded for Tithes: After
some Time he was removed by *Habeas Corpus* to *London*: During his Imprisonment,
the Prosecutor took away Pease out of his Field worth 40*s.* and at
the Assizes obtained an Execution, by which he made a Seizure of four Oxen,
a Cow, and an Horse, to the Value of 34*l.*

and for
Absence from
the publick
Worship.

In this Year *James Taylor*, and *Gawen Taylor*, for themselves and their
Wives absenting from the publick Worship, and *Susanna Guernsey*, for the same
Cause, suffered Distress of their Goods to the Value of 1*l.* 19*s.*

ANNO 1676. *Robert Welch*, after Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical Court,
at the Suit of *James Holloway*, was by a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo* com-
mitted to Prison, where he lay several Years. In this Year also *James Taylor*
was committed to the Sheriff's Ward at *Exon* for Tithes. And in the same
Year two Widows, viz. *Joane Pollexfen*, and *Elizabeth Phillips*, were sent to
Goal for Tithes, at the Suit of *Samuel Norcott*, Vicar of *West-Alvington*, where
they remained Prisoners three Years or upwards, though the Priest's Demand
from the former of them was but about 5*s.*

For their religious Meetings at *Barliscomb*, by Warrants granted from the
Justices, *Walrond*, *Biere*, and *Sainthill*, many Distresses were made, by which
were taken

From

	l.	s.	d.
From James Taylor, twenty Sheep and two Cows worth	16	0	0
Clement Coleman, Gawen Taylor, and George Ruffel, Goods worth	2	10	0
Thomas Stampro, Greenville Yeo, Robert Elliott, Abel Down, Thomas Fry, Richard Old, Richard Leach, Anthony Henson, Robert Gutteridge, Joseph Paul, George Smith, John Richardson, and Robert Pottle, Cattle and other Goods to the Value of	33	11	0
	52	1	0

DEVON-SHIRE.
1676!

Distresses.

Their Meeting-house also was seized by Direction of the said Justices, and forcibly kept from them.

On the 27th of the Month called May this Year, William Wolcott of Bridford died a Prisoner, on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, for having Meetings at his House. The chief Promoter of his Imprisonment was Bernard Gillard, Priest of Bridford. And on the 19th of the next Month died in the Sheriff's Ward at Exon, Thomas Burgan of Otterton, imprisoned on a like Writ, for Absence from the publick Worship. They were both patient, innocent, and exemplary Sufferers for their Testimony.

ANNO 1677. At Plimouth, on the 5th of the Month called April, Andrew Horsemayor, with three other Justices, and Constables attending them, forcibly dispersed the Meeting, and fined Richard Samble 20l. for Preaching. On the 7th of the same Month, the first of the Week, the Mayor and two other Justices took the Names of those who were met, hal'd them into the Street, set a Guard at the Meeting-house Door, to keep them out, detained Richard Samble till Evening, and then fined him 40l. for Preaching. From that Day forward they were kept out of their Meeting-houses, and obliged to meet in the Street till the 29th of September following, when another Mayor, William Tomes, entered upon his Office: The next Day they met peaceably in the House, but afterward this Mayor followed the Example of his Predecessor, and kept them out, and they assembled in the open Street three Times in a Week, enduring the Extremity of Cold, and Inclemency of the Weather all the Winter, abused by the Rabble and Scum of the People, and sometimes by the Officers and Soldiers of the Garrison, who threw Squibs of Fire, and hot burning Coals upon them, pushing them up and down the Street, and bedaubing them with filthy Excrements, all which and much more they endured with an unwearied Patience for the Space of more than twelve Months. Several Warrants also were granted for distraining their Goods, by one of which the Constables forcibly entred the Shop of Robert Cary, and took from him Sugars and Strong Waters to the Value of 24l. all which they sold for 4l. 13s.

Meetings in the open Street, even in Winter.

Unwearied Patience.

Distress of Goods.

For being at a Meeting at Woodhouse in the Parish of West-Alvington, the 21st of October, was taken from William Hingston, a large Quantity of Timber and other Wood, which eight Men were employed about eight Hours in throwing over a Wall, to the Value of 35l. 15s. And from Michael Lee and Samuel Jarvis, Goods worth 2l. 2s. 10d.

On the 7th of the Month called January this Year, George Crocker of Plimouth was committed to Prison on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, for Absence from the publick Worship.

Imprisonment on a Writ de Excom. Cap.

ANNO 1678. Elias Tuckett of Christow, aged eighty one Years, blind, and almost deaf, was committed to the Sheriff's Ward at Exon, and continued Prisoner there ten Weeks, at the Suit of John Davis a Justice and Impropiator, for Tithes.

Imprisonment of E. Tuckett, who was aged, blind, and almost deaf. Sufferings for divers Causes.

In this Year also Manasses Orchard of Tiverton, was committed to Prison by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, after Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical Court, for opening his Shop on the Day called Christmasts-day: And John

DEVON-
SHIRE.
1671.

“ and weighed in an equal Balance by you, and so come to a Sense of our
“ Sufferings, and thereupon raised up to shew Mercy (as God is merciful) in
“ removing those Yokes and Pressures, which our Families, being great, are
“ like to suffer, by reason of their Maintenance depending chiefly on our
“ Labour, to which it is well known by many of this City we have not been
“ wanting whilst at Liberty. We have given a short Account of our Sufferings,
“ hoping you will look thereon, and be found doing the Thing that is just,
“ and whilst ruling among Men, to rule in the Fear of God, which the Light
“ of Christ, the higher Power in all, leads into, as to it the Soul becomes
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From

	l.	s.	d.	DEVON- SHIRE. 1676.
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Clement Coleman, Gawen Taylor, and George Ruffel, Goods worth	2	10	0	Distresses.
Thomas Stampro, Greenwill Yeo, Robert Elliott, Abel Down, Thomas Fry, Richard Old, Richard Leach, Anthony Henson, Robert Gutteridge, Joseph Paul, George Smith, John Richardson, and Robert Pottle, Cattle and other Goods to the Value of	33	11	0	
	52	1	0	

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who was aged,
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Sufferings for
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DEVON-
SHIRE.
1678.

Distresses.

Death of
G. Russell.
in Prison

Suffering of
J. Taylor.

J. Clark.

R. Styling,
his Son, and
Servant, im-
prisoned.

Sundry Dis-
tresses and Im-
prisonments.

Imprisonment
for Tithes.

Distresses for
Meetings.

Imprisonments.

Divers Im-
prisonments.

Lang, Michael Lang, and Katharine Lang, of Coffinswell, for refusing to pay Fines of 3s. each, imposed on them for Absence from the National Worship, were committed to Bridewell, and confined there about six Weeks.

ANNO 1679. On the 23d of the Month called June, William Leach, for being at a Meeting in Cullumpton, suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 4l. 9s.

ANNO 1680. George Russel of Burlescomb, aged eighty three, was committed to the Sheriff's Ward at Exon, on an Exchequer Process for 7s. for Tithes, at the Suit of Anne Jones Impropriatrix. He continued in Prison about nineteen Weeks, and died there on the 2d Day of the Month called May this Year.

In the same Year James Taylor of Holcomb-Regis, had Goods taken from him to the Amount of 35l. for about 5l. demanded for Tithes, for which he had been before in Prison about two Years and an Half, at the Suit of John Blewett Impropriator.

John Clark of Holcomb-Regis, suffered Distress of his Cattle for a Fine of 10l. imposed upon him by the Justices Walrand and Sainthill, for being at a Meeting in Cullumpton.

Richard Styling, his Son of the same Name, and James Cheek his Servant, of the Parish of Shoebrook, were fined 3s. each at the County-Sessions, where they were presented for not attending the publick Worship, and for Refusal to pay, the Father and Son were committed to the High Goal at Exon, and the Servant to Bridewell: They continued Prisoners about five Months, and were then set at Liberty, on a Resolution of the Court to make Distress for their Fines.

Thomas Saunders suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 20s. for being at a Meeting in Cullumpton; and Mary Nausiter, Joane Harris, Emlyn Bray, Elizabeth Mead, Sarah Pottel, and Tace Rugg, taken at a Meeting there, were committed to Bridewell, and detained there two Weeks; as were also Thomas Pearce, and Henry Richards, who had been sent thither by a Session's Warrant, on a Presentment for not attending the publick Worship.

ANNO 1681. On the 3d of the Month called February, John Brice was committed to Prison for refusing to pay Tithes.

For attending religious Meetings at Plimouth, Distresses were made on the Goods

	l.	s.	d.
Of John Shelson, James Fox, and Henry Cane, to the Value of	2	18	11½
William Rawlins of Uffculm, and Philip Taylor	6	4	0
John Richards of Bradnich, and Joane Nausiter	2	9	0
Peter Looman of Honiton, and George Looman	8	10	0
	20	1	11½

Peter Looman and George Looman were also imprisoned about fifteen Weeks on an Indictment for Meetings, as was William Gravett of Exon, about three Weeks on a Sessions Process for the same Cause. And Richard Brown, John Alger, and Nathaniel Elliott, were Prisoners about eleven Weeks, and Matthew Dunsford about three Weeks, for Absence from the National Worship.

ANNO 1682. Robert Silvester and Robert Elliott were imprisoned as Rioters, the former three Months, and the latter three Weeks, for being at a religious Meeting: And for Absence from the publick Worship, John Casely and Dorothy his Wife, were imprisoned near two Years; Thomas Fry about a Year: Abel Down and Richard Old about six Weeks; and Margery Chickett and her Daughter of the same Name, upwards of four Months.

ANNO 1683. In a Letter dated the 26th of the sixth Month this Year, written by Walter Phillips, is a List of the Prisoners then in the several Goals at Exon, which Letter is as follows:

From

From the County Work-house, the 26th of the Sixth Month, 1683.

DEVON
SHIRE
1683.

THOMAS SALTHOUSE and THOMAS L.

“MY dear and well beloved Friends! the Memorial of your Love is
“fresh amongst us, and daily invites us to have some Correspondency
“with you, that we may know how it is with you, and your Fellow Prisoners,
“who suffer with us for the Testimony of a good Conscience, the Considera-
“tion of which doth more and more engage us to believe, that whatsoever the
“Lord suffers to come upon us, will be for the Honour of his Name, and
“for the Good of all that suffer patiently the Trial of their Faith in this try-
“ing, sifting, winnowing Day, that God hath suffered to come upon this
“Nation; so that a Separation may be made betwixt them that serve God,
“and them that serve him not; so blessed and happy will all such be, who
“are faithfully found waiting with their Lamps trimmed for the Coming of
“the Bridegroom. I shall forbear to enlarge, because I will give thee an
“Account of all Friends that are Prisoners, in Expectation of the same from
“thee per next. I remain

W. Phillip's
Letter.

“Thy ever-loving Friend

“WALTER PHILLIPS.”

In the BRIDEWELL, thirty eight.

William Hingeston, John Brooking, Stephen Rule, James Coker, and Walter Phillips, under Sentence of Premunire. Thomas Frice, John Casley and his Wife, Francis Rundell, Gabriel Rundell, John Shelston, Henry Cane, James Fox, Richard Fox, Thomas Salmon, Richard Doe, John Doe, Robert Watch, Benjamin Way, John Joye, John Cooke, Robert Honey, Jacob Thomas, Robert Hawkin, Nicholas Pearse, Edward Popham, Robert Bray, James Shattock, Thomas Knight, Thomas Perryman, Philip Gill, John Lyde, Richard Gove, George Stidson, James Chapple, Anthony Taylor, John Bowden, and Thomas Bowden.

Names and
Number of
Prisoners.

In SOUTH-GATE PRISON, three.

George Fry, Richard Tapper, and Thomas Waterman.

In the HIGH-GOAL, thirty.

John Colsworthy, John Chapple, Richard Hunt, John Paine, Nicholas Wort, John Gannicliff, Michael Lee, John Couls, Henry Morle, Hester Morle, William Leach, Robert Ford, Thomas Stamprow, Thomas Pearce, Ralph Whitrow, Andrew Ellicott, John Light, John Light jun. Richard Smith, George Crocker, Thomas Lane, Theophilus Line, John Harris, William Harris, Nicholas Harris, Francis Rawle, Francis Rawle jun. Samuel Hancock, Francis Light, and Anthony Todd.

In the SHERIFF'S WARD, one.

John Bristow.

In all, seventy two.

In this Year were taken by Distress, for being at religious Meetings,

	l.	s.	d.
From John Colsworthy of Topsham, Goods worth	12	7	10
Peter Looman and John Chapple	26	0	0
Matthew Dunsford, Richard Hunt, Sarah Limbery of Thorncomb, Manasses Orchard of Triverton, Edmund Baker, and John Harford, to the Value of	5	6	5
	43	14	3

ANNO 1684. In this Year James Taylor of Holcomb-Regis, was a Prisoner for Tithes about six Months,

And

DEVON-
SHIRE.
1684.

Distresses.

And in the same Year Distresses were made, for attending religious Meetings, on the Goods

	l.	s.	d.
Of <i>John Colsworthy</i> , to the Value of	20	15	0
<i>John Taylor</i> , <i>Matthew Dunsford</i> , and <i>John Chapple</i>	17	7	4
<i>John Whitty</i> of <i>Axminster</i> , and <i>Thomas Force</i>	14	16	11
<i>William Hingeston</i> of <i>Kingsbridge</i>	14	17	1
<i>John Brooking</i> , and <i>Richard Tucker</i>	10	3	6
<i>Augustine Swaffield</i> , and <i>Eleanor Forsey</i>	1	5	0
Forms and Chairs out of the Meeting-house	1	10	0
	80	14	10

And for Absence from the National Worship, taken

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>Manasses Orchard</i> , <i>Thomas Fry</i> , <i>Henry Morle</i> , and <i>Thomas Stamprow</i> , Goods worth	4	7	0
<i>John Porter</i> of <i>Thorncomb</i> , <i>John Colsworthy</i> of <i>Topsham</i> , and <i>Matthew Dunsford</i>	2	16	8
<i>Matthew Croker</i> of <i>Halburton</i>	20	0	0
<i>Thomas Saunders</i> of <i>Woodbury</i> , <i>John Taylor</i> , <i>Richard Hunt</i> , and <i>John Chapple</i>	7	5	10
	34	9	6

Imprisonments
for Absence
from the pub-
lick Worship.

Many were imprisoned this Year, either for going to Meetings, or being absent from the publick Worship, among whom were *Arthur Cotton*, *Samuel Snape*, *John Ramster*, *John Rugg sen.* *John Rugg. jun.* *William Mead*, *Henry Croft*, *Anthony Bray*, *Richard Fry*, *Hannah Parsons*, *Emlin Bray*, *Katharine Alford*, *Anthony Bragg*, *Richard Fuse*, *Richard Charly*, and *Richard Hodge*.

Character of
an Informer.

The most active Informer in these Parts, was one *William Bond*, of *Bridport* in *Dorsetshire*, a Bayliff, and Alehouse-keeper: This *Bond*, and *Bryan* a wicked Lad, whom he had at his Beck, would make Information at all Adventures. He came to a silent Meeting, and went away and swore that a Preacher was there. He would sometimes carry Prisoners to his House, and keep them there a Month together. He had Impudence enough to command and insult the Constables and other Officers, and even the Justices themselves. He seized with his own Hands the Goods of *John Newberry* of *Stockland*, to the Value of 30*l.* for a Fine of 5*l.* A Man of a seared Conscience, and infamous Character, debauched in his Morals, and supported in extravagant Living by honest Mens Substance, whose Goods he made a Prey of at his Pleasure. But many such Wolves were at that Time permitted to worry the Sheep of Christ. On this Man's Information were taken from *Joseph Ashford*, *John Smith*, *Nathaniel Newton*, and *Joseph Whitty*, Goods and Cattle to the Value of 13*l.* 13*s.*

Imprison-
ments.

John Joole of *Plympton-Mary* was a Prisoner two Months, *John Smith* of *Membury* above eight Months, *Matthew Dunsford* of *Topsham* ten Months, and *Michael Lee* of *Bury-Pomroy* about a Year and four Months.

Prisoners re-
leased.

John Clark of *Holcomb-Regis*, suffered three Months Imprisonment, and *William Rawlins* was detained six Months in Prison, for refusing to take the Oaths.

ANNO 1685. In this Year, by King *James's* Proclamation for a general Pardon, the Prisoners, for Religion in this County, were generally set at Liberty, and permitted to hold their Assemblies for Worship, without much Molestation.

In this Year also *William Gravett* of *Exon*, for eleven Months Absence from his Parish Church, had taken from him by an *Exchequer* Process, Goods to the Value of 22*l.* 10*s.*

ANNO 1686. In this and the next preceding Year, *James Taylor*, *Robert Ford*, *Matthew Dunsford*, *Roger Farvis*, and *John Harris*, had Corn taken out of their Fields for Tithes, to the Value of 14*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

On

On the 13th of December this Year, *Dorcas Dowle* and *Abigail Smith* having been at *Tiverton* Meeting, were sent for by *William Hewitt* Mayor, and sent to Prison for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, but discharged at the next Sessions about four Weeks after.

On the 20th of the next Month, *Robert Ford*, *Jacob Thomas*, *Clement Lake*, *Margery Tucket*, and *Abigail Smith*, were taken by Constables from a Meeting at the House of *Sarah Yelland* in *Oakhampton*, and by the Mayor and another Justice sent Prisoners to the High Goal at *Exon*, whence the said *Abigail* was discharged about three Weeks after by the King's Warrant, and the rest of them at the next Assizes, after about five Weeks Imprisonment.

ANNIS 1687, 1688, 1689, and 1690. In these Years we have an Account of Corn taken out of the Fields, from Persons occupying Land in this County, to the Amount of 48*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* The Names of those Sufferers were *Robert Ford*, *James Taylor*, *Walter Phillips*, *Isaac Phillips*, *Roger Jarvis*, *Matthew Dunsford*, *John Edwards*, *Richard Perrot*, *John Harris*, *Andrew Stone*, * *Robert Weymouth*, *Jacob Phillips*, † *John Smith*, *John Colsworthy*, *John Weymouth*, *Isaac Brooking*, *John Brooking*, and *Thomas Stampro*.

Tithes.

Robert Were, prosecuted by *John Moyridge*, Priest of *Burlifcomb*, for Tithes, was committed to the High Goal at *Exon*, by Warrant from two Justices grounded on a Certificate out of the Ecclesiastical Court on the 17th of December 1690.

Walter Phillips of *Exon*, for refusing to send out a Soldier in the Trained Bands, had taken from him in the Year 1690, Goods worth 3*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*

C H A P. XII.

DORSETSHIRE.

DORSET-
SHIRE.
1656.

ANNO 1656.

ON the 21st of the Month called June, *George Bailey*, being concerned to utter some Christian Exhortation to the People in their publick Worship-house at *Melcomb*, was sent to Prison there, and after three Days removed to *Dorchester* Goal. On the 16th of November, *Jasper Batt*, in the publick Place of Worship at *Weymouth-Malcomb-Regis*, asked the Priest after the Sermon, *whether he was a Minister of Christ?* The Priest answered *I am*, and went his Way: But the People fell violently upon *Jasper*, and beat him sorely: After which they sent him to Prison, where he lay several Days. On the 30th of December, *John Scaife*, *Robert Wastfield*, *Richard Adams*, *John Allen*, and *Josiah Coale*, at the same Place, met with like Treatment for their Christian Intention of exhorting the People, who despitefully used them: After which the Mayor sent them to Prison. The aforesaid *John Scaife*, a few Weeks before, preaching in a Meeting at *Evershot*, had been assaulted by a wicked Fellow named *Thomas Hurlston*, who climbed upon the Wall, fell upon him, and struck him to the Ground. At another Time this *Hurlston*, wrapt up in a Bull's Hide, came among the Rabble to the Meeting-house Door, and threw in an *Horn*, with which he struck off Part of

Imprisonment
of G. Bailey,
and barbarous
Abuses of
others.

VOL. I.

T t

the

* *Robert Weymouth* had been before imprisoned thirteen Weeks, on an *Exchequer* Prosecution for Tithes, at the Suit of *Araon Baker*, Vicar of *West-Alvington*.

† *John Smith* was also prosecuted in the Hundred Court at the Suit of *William Drake* Impropiator, who got Execution against him for 1*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* and took from him a Mare worth 4*l.*

DORSET-
SHIRE.
1656.

Sundry Impri-
sonments.

Imprisonment
of A. Rigg,

and of J. Gun-
dry.

Sudden Death
of a Perse-
cutor
Cruel Whip-
ping.

the Preacher's Lip. But the End of this profane Man was remarkable, who being shortly after at a Bull-baiting, the Bull struck his Horn through his Chin up into his Head, so that his Tongue was torn out of his Mouth, and he instantly died, having but a Quarter of an Hour before told some of his Companions, *that he designed to be at Evershot again that Day, to make Sport of the QUAKERS.* This Man's Exit was remarked by many as a singular Instance of the Divine Justice.

In this Year *Humphry Smith* and *Anthony Mellidge* were taken out of a Meeting at *Corfe*, and committed to *Dorchester Goal*: To which Prison were also sent *Richard Fairman* and *Matthew Thomas*, taken up as they were passing on their lawful Occasions, the one at *Windfrith*, and the other at *Blandford*.

ANNO 1657. In or about the Month called *April* this Year, *Ambrose Rigg* was by the Mayor of *Weymouth* committed to the County Goal, after he had been beaten, and had his Clothes torn by the People, for giving them a Christian Exhortation after the Priest had ended his Sermon.

On the 16th of the Month called *August*, after the Priest of *South-Perrot* had ended his Sermon there, *John Gundry* seriously exhorted both him and the People to Repentance: The enraged Priest struck him, and then made Oath before a Justice, that *Gundry* had disturbed him, though he spake not till the Priest had quite done. The Justice sent him to *Dorchester Goal*, where he lay about five Months, till the Sessions, at which one *Edward Ireland* a Tithing-man, was very eager in prosecuting *Gundry*, and expressed much Joy in his Hopes of sending the innocent Man to Prison again; but in that he was disappointed, for the Court discharged him. Some Observers of this Tithing-man's persecuting Disposition, were surprized when they saw him taken out of the World by sudden Death the next Day.

Barbarous was the Usage which *George Bewley*, *John Ellis*, and *Humphry Sprague*, met with at *Bridport*, in *November*, after they had been at a Meeting there, the Mayor and Bayliffs of the Town caused them to be whipt as Vagabonds, and sent away with Passes: *George Bewley* desired Liberty to go to the Inn for his Horse and Clothes, but was not suffered: When he had gone some Miles from the Town, the Officer who conducted him gave him his Liberty; whereupon he returned for his Horse and Clothes, and the Bayliffs caused him to be whipt again, and sent away without them: He returned again, and went to his Inn, paid his Host, and was riding out of Town on his Horse, when the Bayliffs caused him to be taken and whipt the third Time. They then sent him away with his Horse and Clothes, which they had detained without any Colour of Law: And thus cruelly tormented the lawful Owner for claiming his own Property.

The same Mayor also treated *Richard Polderwy* with like Severity, who going to a Meeting there, was also whipt, and dismissed with a Pass, though known to be but six Miles from Home.

In like manner the Mayor of *Dorchester* dealt with *Bartholomew Lugg*, who being at a Meeting there, but twelve Miles from his own Dwelling, was whipt as a Vagrant, and sent away with a Pass. The like Sentence was cruelly executed on *Thomas Woodrove*, who had been at a Meeting there.

At *Hawkchurch* on the 16th of *October*, *Humphry Smith*, preaching in the Meeting there, the Priest of the Parish, with Officers and a Warrant, carried him to a Justice, who caused him to be cruelly whipt, and sent with a Pass from Tithing to Tithing. The same *Humphry Smith* and *Samuel Curtis*, being together at *Chard Market*, were taken up by a Justice's Warrant, whipt as Vagabonds, and sent away, though *Samuel Curtis* was well known to be but seven Miles from Home, and to be a Clothier of considerable Trade, Wealth, and Reputation. *Dewens Morry*, going to the publick Place of Worship at *Hawkchurch*, by the Instigation of a Priest, and Order of a Justice, was barbarously whipt.

Imprison-
ments.

Joseph Coale, for asking the Priest a Question, after his Sermon at *Bridport*, was kickt and abused by the People, and haled by the Hair of his Head to Prison,

Prison, and from thence sent next Day to *Dorchester Goal*. *Elizabeth Atkins* and *Dorothy Saunders* were also imprisoned for their religious Exhortation to the People in their publick Assemblies for Worship.

Thomas Strickland and *Francis Dumberfield*, for not putting off their Hats before the Justices, were kept in Prison above a Year from their Families, each having a Wife and five Children, depending for Subsistence on their Labour.

Hannah Guier, being at a Meeting at *South-Perrott*, but five Miles from her Dwelling, was sent Home with a Pass.

On the 6th of *November*, *Lore Bagg*, a Mercer's Wife in *Bridport*, with her Son *Thomas Bagg*, and her Daughters *Sarah* and *Abigail*, having only walked to a Meeting in the same Town and Home again, were charged by the Bayliffs with *wandering and profane walking on the Sabbath-day*, and fined 2s. 6d. each, and for refusing to pay it were sent to Prison, and detained there several Months.

ANNO 1658. We find this Year in *Dorchester Goal*, *Francis Williams*, *Nicholas Stone*, *Bartholomew Lugg*, and *William Elliott jun.* they were detained there about seven Months, for no other Cause than publickly appearing in the Street, while *William Bailey*, one of their imprisoned Friends, was under the Examination of the Magistrates: At which Time *Walter Hallett*, offering to go up into the Town-hall, was struck on the Head with many Blows by an Officer.

Unjust Imprisonments.

In *September* this Year, *George Harris* and *Peter Mabber*, having been at a Meeting in *Sherborne*, were stoned and otherwise inhumanly abused by the Rabble. Soon after a Justice of the Peace sent for them, pretending Kindness, and that he would punish those who had done them hurt. But when they came before him and another Justice with their Hats on, they were for that Offence only sent to Prison, and detained there above a Year, without the least Notice of the Injury they had suffered.

Josiah Limbery, *George Fry*, and *Thomas Sprague*, for going eight Miles to *Bridport* Meeting, were imprisoned, and afterward set in the Stocks.

Anne Coleman and *Winifred Wynzer*, for absenting themselves from the publick Worship, were imprisoned many Weeks: And for the same Cause *John Hide*, *Robert Hart*, *John Scott*, *Abraham Farrant*, and *Samuel Atkins*, suffered Imprisonment for some Time.

Francis Beaton of *Overcompton*, and *Roger Coward* of *Trenthead*, were imprisoned at *Dorchester* for Tithes, where the latter of them was remaining a Prisoner three Years after.

Imprisonment for Tithes.

William Coward of *Plush*, was also in Prison for the same Cause.

Nicholas Masters of *Bradford*, was also committed to *Dorchester Goal*, at the Suit of *Elias Harvey* Impropiator, and died there for his Testimony.

N. Masters died Prisoner.

Thomas Strong, for declaring Truth in the publick Worship-house at *Dorchester*, was committed to Prison.

ANNO 1659. *Humphry Smith* was taken out of a Meeting at *Poole*, and sent to Prison.

H. Smith imprisoned.

ANNO 1660. On the 17th of the Month called *May*, a Rabble, raised by Beat of Drum, came to the Meeting at *Broad Cerne*, beset the House, fired Guns under the Windows, beat those that were met with Poles and with their Guns, stoned them through the Streets, and hurt several of them, so that some spat Blood a long Time after, and others were sorely bruised, narrowly escaping with their Lives. On the 20th a Meeting at *Hawkburch* was molested by Captain *Bragg* and others, who pulled them out twice by force; demanded 10s. of them for riding to the Meeting, and took away six of their Horses. Next Day they were sent for to a Justice of the Peace, with whom was the Priest of *Hawkburst*, who rudely insulted them, calling them ill Names, &c. The Justice told them, *they must meet no more*, and said to the Tithing-man, *You know what to do with their Horses*, meaning that he should sell them for the Fines of 10s. each, which he confirmed. Accordingly they kept three of the Horses

Tumultuous Insults.

DORSET-
SHIRE.
1660.

Imprisonments
for Tithes,

and for Meet-
ings.

Imprisonment
of R. King 80
Years of Age.

Imprisonments
for not Swear-
ing.
Some taken
from Meet-
ings.

Prisoners
abused by the
Felons.

Distress.

Imprison-
ments.

Horses with two Bridles and Saddles, worth about 11*l*. On the 17th of the Month called *June*, they were in like manner treated at *Lyme*, as they had been at *Broad-Cerne*: And on the 9th of the Month called *August*, the same Usage was repeated at *Hawkechurch*.

On the 2d of the Month called *August*, *Hercules Tobee* and *John Butler* were committed to *Dorchester Goal*, at the Suit of *Edmund Butler*, Patron of the Parsonage of *Haymore*, and *John Dore*, Priest of the same, for Tithes.

About the same Time *Elizabeth Masters* Widow, was committed to the same Goal for Tithes, at the Suit of the same Impropiator, who had before kept her Husband in Prison till he died.

On the 16th of *September*, *William Scott*, *John Scott*, *Joseph Hopkins*, *Charles Noake*, *George Ryall*, *Francis Taylor*, *Richard Phillips*, *Edmund Bound*, and *Thomas Miller*, taken at a Meeting in *Sherburn*, were carried before some Justices then sitting there, who, on their refusing to give Sureties for their good Behaviour, sent them to Prison, where they remained about a Year. Those Nine, with *John Pitman*, *Thomas Long sen.* *Thomas Long jun.* *John Hopkins*, and *Benjamin Hopkins*, were also fined for Contempt of the Court in not pulling off their Hats at Sessions.

On the 17th of *October*, *Robert King* of *Glasson-Bradford*, about eighty Years of Age, was committed to *Dorchester Goal* for Tithes, at the Suit of *Elias Harvey* Impropiator.

On the same Day *Edward Tucker*, *James Budd*, *John Hugginson*, *Michael Drinkwater*, *George White*, and *Richard Zebar*, were taken from a Meeting at *Cern Abbies*, and for refusing the Oath of Allegiance committed to *Dorchester Goal*; as was on the 19th *George Harris*, who was taken by Soldiers out of his own House; and on the 20th *John Hide*, taken at a Meeting in *Sherburn*: This *John Hide* was an old Royalist, who had served the King at *Colchester* Siege, and had suffered Imprisonment for his Loyalty; but was now sent to Goal as a disaffected Person by one *Fitz-James*, a Military Officer, who in the Days of *Oliver* and *Richard Cromwell*, had been very zealous and active against the King. *Anthony Mellidge* was the same Day taken from a Meeting at *Poole*, who, with twelve others there met, had the Oath of Allegiance tendred them, and were sent to the Prison in that Town. On the 25th *Bartholomew Beere*, *Henry Dumberfield*, *Matthew Pitt*, *John Tucker*, and *John Holman*, had the Oaths tendred them by the Mayor of *Weymouth*, and for refusing them were sent to *Dorchester Goal*; as were about the same Time *John Elms* and *William White*, who were taken from a Meeting at *Blandford*.

Ezekiel Russel, fined at a Court-Leet, for refusing to Swear, had a Mare taken from him worth 7*l*. 10*s*.

On the 8th of the Month called *January*, *Andrew Sheppard*, coming from Market, was stopt by two Soldiers, and carried before the Justices, who, for refusing the Oaths, sent him to the County Goal; whither also *Bernard Derrish*, taken out of his Shop by Soldiers, was committed the same Day for the same Cause. About the same Time *William Paul*, having some Business at the Quarter Sessions, the Justices there tendred him the Oaths, and sent him to Prison: His Case was hard, being a poor Man, lame with an Ulcer in his Leg, and having a great Charge of Children.

On the 13th a Troop of Soldiers took *Peter Mabber*, *John Andrews*, *Andrew Downton*, *Samuel Masters*, *Obadiab Masters*, *John Parker*, *Henry Wilmington*, *John Vivian*, *Richard Coggin*, and *Edward Starr*, out of a Meeting at *Batcomb*; they were next Day sent to *Dorchester Goal* for refusing the Oaths, where they were put among Felons, who were suffered to take away their Clothes and Hats, and abuse them at their Pleasure.

ANNO 1661. *Robert French* of *Weyford*, for Absence from the National Worship, had Goods taken from him to the Value of 5*s*. 6*d*.

ANNO 1662. In this Year *Anthony Mellidge*, *Henry Lock*, *Jeremy Thomas*, *John Rogers*, *William Fippard*, *John Scott*, and *William Noble*, were sent to Prison on the Act against Conventicles.

ANNO

ANNO 1663. On the 27th of the Month called February this Year, *William White* and *John Gillett* were Prisoners for Tithes in this County, having then been under Confinement three Years.

In this Year *Francis Williams*, *Bartholomew Lugg*, *Elizabeth Osborn*, *William Elliott*, *Thomas Shrimpton*, and *Richard Bagg*, for Absence from the National Worship, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 1*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*

ANNO 1665. On the 12th of the Month called February, *Daniel Taylor*, *Thomas Bagg*, *William Elliott* the Elder, *Francis Williams*, *Bartholomew Lugg*, *Lore Bagg*, *Hannah Nichols*, and *Elizabeth Osborn*, taken at a Meeting in *Bridport*, were committed to the Town Goal for eleven Weeks, on the Act for Banishment.

ANNO 1666. On the 16th of November, *Christopher Bacon*, *John Gillet*, *William Wilkins*, *Daniel Taylor*, *Thomas Bagg*, *Francis Williams*, *William Elliot* jun, *Hannah Nichols*, and *Mary Bagg*, were violently taken out of a Meeting at *Bridport*: Next Day in the Evening they were sent for by the Bayliffs of the Town, and sent to Prison on the Act for Banishment. When they would have pleaded for themselves, *Spencer*, one of the Bayliffs, answered them short, *You shall go to Prison right or wrong.*

In this Year *Henry Barnes* of *Blanford*, and *Christopher Collins* and *James Robins* of *Thornford*, were Prisoners on Significavits of Excommunication, for not paying toward the Repairing the Steeple-houses of those Places: They had been then in Prison, the first three Years, the second two Years and eight Months, and the third about two Years and an Half; though the Sum demanded of *Robins* was but 9*d.* and of *Barnes* only 16*d.* for which he was violently haled from the Market to Prison, and there close confined from his Wife and four small Children, whose Subsistence depended on his Labour.

ANNO 1667. On the 5th of December, *John Pitman* was Prisoner in the County Goal, where he had been Prisoner above four Years under Sentence of *Premunire* for refusing to Swear. Which Sentence was also passed upon *James Atkins* at the Assizes this Year. About this Time the Justices at their Sessions appeared arbitrary in their Proceedings against *John Scott* and *Thomas Gower*, who being indicted for being at a Meeting, and no Evidence appearing against them, they should have been discharged; but the Justices resolving to detain them, ordered the Goaler to put on their Hats, on purpose to fine them for not taking them off, and under that Pretence sent them back to Prison.

ANNO 1672. *William Scott*, *Angel Smith*, *Charles Noake*, *Francis Bound*, *Andrew Downton*, and *William Gawler*, who had lain in this County Goal, under Sentence of *Premunire*, about nine Years for not Swearing, were discharged by the King's Letters Patent; as were also *Henry Weedon*, *Joshua Brook*, *John Leach*, *John Cawley*, *John Parsons*, *Robert Angel*, *William Kite*, *John Debnam*, *John Bennett*, and *Francis Guy*.

ANNO 1673. At the Lent Assizes held in *Dorchester* this Year, *John Budd*, *Thomas Budd*, *John Bennett*, *Ezekiel Russel*, *John Sadler*, *John Anner* sen. and *John Anner* jun. were prosecuted on the Statute of Queen *Elizabeth* against *Popish* Recufants.

ANNO 1674. Upon the Informations of *Thomas Dyker* and *Edward Hart*, of a Meeting at *Batcomb* near *Cerne-Abbey* on the 19th of the Month called *July* this Year, by a Warrantt from *Nathaniel Highborne* of *Sherborne*, several Persons had their Goods distrained: And on these and other Informations in this and the preceeding Year, were taken

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>Peter Maber</i> , three Cows worth	11	0	0
<i>Henry Hodges</i> , Goods worth	14	0	0
<i>Richard Fry</i> of <i>Sherborne</i> , <i>John Gundry</i> , <i>Richard Stone</i> , and <i>William Stone</i> , to the Value of	12	2	4

DORSET-SHIRE.
1663.

Imprisonments
and Distresses.

Many impri-
sonments on
the Act for
Banishment.

On Excommu-
nications for
trivial Claims.

Premunire.

Arbitrary Act.

Discharge of
Prisoners.

Prosecutions
as Papists.

Distresses for
Meeting.

DORSET-
SHIRE.
1674.

* These Cows
were sold for
8l.

	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	37	2	4
* John Brown, three Cows worth	15	0	0
Elias Howard, in Money and Goods	22	14	0
Edward Kennell and Deborah Coleman of Corfe, William Kennell, William Phip- pard, Matthew Doming, and Benjamin Collins, Goods worth	21	15	6
John Carter and James Thomas	0	18	0
	97	9	10

Cruelty of a
Justice, and
of an Infor-
mer.

A principal Actor in granting Warrants for these Distresses was Justice Culliford, who much transgressed the Bounds of his Office in kicking *Deborah Coleman*, an innocent Woman, on her Belly, and other Parts of her Body, and striking her with his Dog-whip.

The like Fury possessed one of the Informers, who, coming to make Distress, cut the Arm of *Henry Hodges* to the Bone. Another Informer, Clerk to one of the Justices, wished the *Quakers* lockt up in their Meeting-house and Fire set to it, saying, *he believed it doing God good Service to kill them*. Such Wolves as these worried the poor Sheep of Christ at their Pleasure. We shall next insert,

A Copy of one of the Warrants for Distress, viz.

Dorset is.

Warrant for
Distresses.

“ **W**HEREAS *John Gundry* and *William Stone*, both of *Evershot* in this County, have been again legally convicted for being at a Conventicle upon Sunday the 16th of *August*, and again the 18th of *October*, and the 13th of this Instant *November*, in the House of him the said *John Gundry* in *Watcomb*, under Pretence of religious Worship, contrary to the Act of Parliament in that Case made and provided; and that *Mary*, the Wife of the said *John Gundry* is again convicted for the same Offence, viz. on the 16th of *August* and on the 15th of *November*, and *Richard Stone* of the same hath been also convicted of the like Offence, viz. on the 16th of *August* and the 18th of *October*; and *Mary*, his Wife, hath been convicted for being at the Conventicle on the said 15th of *November* Instant, contrary to the Act aforesaid, by which she hath incurred the Penalty of 5s. and the rest 10s. for each of the said Offences and Convictions; and the said *John Gundry*, for permitting the said Conventicles to be kept in his House, hath forfeited for each Day's Offence, the Sum of 40l. lawful *English* Money, according to the said Act.

“ These are therefore in his Majesty's Name to require you forthwith to demand the said several respective Penalties and Sums of Money of the said Offenders, viz. of the said *John Gundry* 120l. for his House, and 30s. for his own three said several Convictions, and 20s. for his Wife, and of the said *William Stone* 30s. from *Richard Stone* 20s. for his own Offence, and 5s. for his Wife: And if they, any, or either of them shall thereupon refuse or neglect to pay the same, you are hereby required to levy it by Distress and Sale of their respective Goods, rendring the Overplus, and return the said Money, with this Precept, to me at my House in *Sherborne* by the 12th Day of *December* next: Hereof fail not as yourselves will not incur the Penalty of 5l. lawful Money for each of your Neglect herein. Given under my Hand and Seal the 20th Day of *November*, Anno rni *Caroli secundi Anglie*, &c.
“ *Annoq. Dom. 1674.*

To the Constables of the Hundred of *Tillesford*, and to the Church-wardens and Over-seers of the Poor of *Evershot*, and to the Titling-man thereof. These.

“ **NATH. HIGHMORE.**”

So firm and constant were this People in their religious Assemblies to worship God, that by frequent Execution of such Warrants many of them were impoverished, and their whole Substance made a Prey to merciless Informers.

ANNO 1677. *Joseph Gillet* was committed to *Dorchester Goal* on an *Exchequer* Process for Tithes, at the Suit of *Benjamin Bird* a Priest, whose Demand was but 12 s. for four Years.

In this Year *Henry Barn* at *Blandford*, for a Meeting at his House, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 8 l. *Edward Ware* 3 l. and *Michael Drinkwater* 5 l. In this Year a Verdict was given at the Assizes against *William Scott* for 100 l. on the Statute made against *Popish* Recufants.

Sarah Bagg of *Bridport*, for refusing to pay 2 s. 8 d. for a Soldier in the Trained Bands, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 20 s.

ANNO 1678. *Joseph Gillett*, a Clothier of *Wootton* near *Lyne*, was arrested in the Month called *May*, for a Demand of 220 l. for eleven Months Absence from the National Worship: He put in an Appearance to the Action, but in the next Term Execution was awarded against him for that Sum, which obliged him to shut up and leave off his Trade, to the Detriment of many poor People by him employed. In *November* he was again committed to Prison at the Suit of Priest *Bird*, who himself assisted in plucking him out of his House: He was continued a Prisoner near six Years after.

In this Year *William Kennell*, *John Brown*, *Thomas Strong* and Honour his Wife, all of the Isle of *Purbeck*, were returned as *Popish* Recufants at the Quarter Sessions: And *Thomas Budd*, on an *Exchequer* Process for two Thirds of his Estate, suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 20 s.

James Jenkins, *Robert Noble*, and *John Boyle*, poor Men of *Warham*, taken from a Meeting at *Noble's* House, were by Justice *Savage* sent to *Dorchester Goal* for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance.

Rebecca Hill was sent to Prison on a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, dated the 13th of *July* this Year.

ANNO 1680. For Meetings at *Bridport*, Warrants were issued from *Joseph Bishop* and *Thomas Ellis* Justices, and Bailiffs of *Bridport*, on the Information of *Thomas Nossiter* a Lawyer, and *William Bond* a Bailiff's Follower, by which were taken

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>Thomas Bagg</i> , Goods to the Value of	25	10	0
<i>Daniel Taylor</i> , to the Value of	23	12	0
<i>William Smith</i> , <i>Humphry Sprague</i> , and	12	11	0
<i>James Jacobs</i> , to the Value of	3		
	61	13	0

DORSET-SHIRE.
1677.

Constancy in Meeting.

Exchequer Process.

Excommunication.

Distresses at Bridport.

Meetings in the Street.

Indictments.

Excommunication.
Abuses by Informers.

ANNO 1684. On the 2d of the Month called *May*, the Meeting-house at *Bridport* being shut up by the Magistrates, the Meeting was held in the open Street, whence sixteen Inhabitants of that Town, or Places adjacent, were taken and sent to Prison, viz. *Daniel Taylor*, *Humphry Sprague*, *William Elliott* sen. *Mary Kenway*, *Thomas Bagg*, *James Beagen*, *Edward Collier* and *Sarah* his Wife, *Elizabeth Lugg*, *Robert Hosford*, *John Nichols*, *Elias Nichols*, *William Elliott* jun. *William Kenway*, *Joseph Kenway*, and *Bartholomew Lugg*. In the same Year the said *Daniel Taylor*, *Humphry Sprague*, *Thomas Bagg* and *Abigail* his Wife, and others of *Bridport*, were indicted on the Statute for 20 l. per Month, for Absence from the National Worship; as were also at the Quarter Sessions *William Scott*, *Richard Fry*, and others of *Sherborne*: *Richard Fry* was also prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court, and imprisoned on a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*.

On the 23d of *November* at *Bridport*, the Informer pulled the Friends out of their Meeting-house one by one; and *William Darby* Constable, pulled *Abigail Bagg* along the Room, dragged her out into the Dirt, and there left her. After which they carried *Elias Nichols* and *Elizabeth Lugg* to *Bond* the Informer's House, where he kept them Prisoners. At another Time *Darby* the Constable turned

DORSET-
SHIRE.
1684.

turned the Friends out and nailed up the Meeting-house Doors, sending eight of them to *Bond's* House, where they were put into a little nasty stinking Chamber, Men and Women together, four Days, not suffering them to go out to ease themselves, and when a Bed was sent to one of them, *Bond* and his Wife took it away; *Bond* telling them, *they should have no Law*. In such Actions as these he shewed himself lawless, taking Shelter under the Act against Conventicles, which gave such Encouragement to Informers, as they made no Conscience of stretching beyond the Bounds either of Reason or Humanity. This was apparent in the Case of *William Kenway* of *Bridport*, who being fined 5*l.* for himself and others meeting there, *Bond* and *Darby* broke open his Doors, and kept Possession of his House two Days and two Nights, drank out his Beer, and burnt up his Wood, denying his Wife so much as a Faggot to warm hers and her Childrens Clothes with: They carried away all they could find both within Doors and without, even his working Tools (he being a Rope-maker) to the Value of 13*l.* threatening withal, that if he brought any more Goods into the House they would take them. This was done on the 27th of *December*, so that the Man, his Wife and Children, were constrained in the Depth of Winter to remove their Habitation out of the Town.

Seizures.

About the same Time *William Ferris*, fined 10*s.* for Meeting, had his Goods seized to the Value of 3*l.* Also *George White* of *Abbey-Milton*, had his Goods taken for being absent from the publick Worship.

At Weymouth.

For a Meeting at *Weymouth*, *Phineas Everett* Mayor, granted a Warrant for Distress, by which were taken

From <i>John Bennet</i> a Shopkeeper, Stuffs and Serges worth	27	4	0
<i>Samuel Standerwick</i> , and <i>William Mocket</i> , Goods worth	14	8	0
<i>Matthew Pitt</i> , <i>John Anner jun.</i> and <i>Erasmus Brown</i>	14	4	0

55 16 0

An Overseer
fined.

There was at that Meeting one *James Budd*, an Overseer of the Poor, who, though a Member of the established Church, refused to join with the Officers in making these Distresses, for which Refusal he was fined 5*l.* and had an Hoghead of *Molasses* taken from him worth 6*l.*

Distresses.

ANNO 1685. *Edward Gunning*, *William Ferris*, and *Richard Newberry*, for Fines for Meeting, had their Goods taken away to the Value of 3*l.* 18*s.*

Samuel Bedlow and *Francis Bound*, Prisoners for refusing the Oath of Allegiance, were this Year discharged by King *James's* Proclamation.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

ANNO 1689. *Peter Maber* of *Batcomb* Parish, about seventy five Years of Age, was committed to *Dorchester* Goal at the Suit of *John Palmer* his Parish Priest, for a Demand of about 30*s.* for one Year's Tithe.

DURHAM,
&c.
1658.

C H A P. XIII.

D U R H A M and
N O R T H U M B E R L A N D.

A N N O 1658.

JOHAN RICHMOND suffered Distress of his Cattle to the Value of 40*l.* for 8*l.* demanded for Tithes. Also *William Richmond* and *Thomas Richmond* had their Cattle distrained for Tithes to a great Value. About this Time *Margaret Ramsey*, for giving a Godly Exhortation to the People, after the Priest had ended his Sermon, was imprisoned at *Durham*; as was *George Humble*, an aged Man, who, seeing some of his Friends put in the Stocks, reproved the Justice who had commanded it: The Justice, offended at the Reproof he deserved, sent the honest old Man to Goal for giving it, where, after about ten Months Confinement, he died.

Distress of
Goods.G. Humble
died in Prison.

A N N O 1660. On the 11th of November, a Party of Soldiers, commanded by Captain *Bellasis*, came to a Meeting at *Simon Townsend's* House in *Norton*, and took thence * *Stephen Crisp* of *Colchester* in *Essex*, *Humphry Norton* of *Newtown*, *William Foster* of *Carleton*, *George Brough* of *Norton*, *Thomas Jackson* of *Arsham-Grange* in *Yorkshire*, and *Francis Roundtree* of *Stockley* in the same County: A Justice of the Peace ordered them to appear at the next Quarter Sessions, which they did, and, for refusing to take the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, were sent to Prison; as were also at the same Time for the same Cause, *William Maddison* of *Billingham*, *Marmaduke Storr* of *Yorkshire*, and *John Richmond* of *Heighington*, who had been forcibly taken out of their Inn at *Durham*; and three Days after *John Richardson*, *George Thompson*, and *Christopher Hodgson*, taken out of a Friend's House; and on the 24th *George Richardson*, *Philip Richardson*, *Thomas Redhead*, and *Ralph Loftis*, all of *Shotten*, Husbandmen, *Robert Leighton* and *Thomas Paxton*, of *Essington*, Husbandmen, who were taken from their Work by an Order of the Justices, were sent to Prison; as were in the next Month *Christopher Crosby*, *William Jekyl*, and *John Usham*, all of *Stockton*.

S. Crisp and
others impri-
soned.

About the same Time also were sent to Prison for refusing the Oaths, *John Heighington*, *Robert Fisher*, and *William Wilson*, all of *Durham*; *John Langstaff* of *Bishops-Aukland*, and *Emanuel Grice* of the same.

In the Month called January, *William Hodgson* and *Francis Hodgson*, both of *Cockerton*, *John Robinson* Weaver, *Thomas Nesbome* of *Pyborne*, and *John Robinson* of *Ulnaby*, Farmer, were taken by Soldiers from a Meeting at the House of *John Richmond* in *Heighington*, and by some Justices of the Peace committed to Prison.

In the next Month, *Thomas Spark*, *Thomas Williamson*, *Hugh Hutchinson*, *Thomas Shield* of *Wooley*, *Francis Shield* sen. *Francis Shield* jun. *Hugh Shield*, *John Brown*, *Richard Shield*, *Thomas Rowell*, *Hugh Rowell*, *Hugh Rodam*, *Anthony Watson*, *Robert Watson*, *Samuel Farlam*, *Cuthbert Rodam*, *Thomas Whitfield*, *Thomas Williamson*, *Thomas Henlyside*, *Hugh White*, *Cuthbert Fetherstone*, *John Shield* jun.

Prosecutions
a the Promo-
tion of Pa-
pists.

VOL. I.

X x

William

* *Stephen Crisp*, and *Thomas Turner* sent to Prison about the same Time, were confined in a separate Place from the other Prisoners, who in the next Month were above an Hundred.

DURHAM,
8c.
1660.

William Lea Yeoman, and John Shield Fuller, all of Allendale, were taken by William Errington and others, known Papists, and carried to Hexome, where they were kept several Days, some of them several Weeks, in a nasty stinking Dungeon, and afterward sent to Morpeth Goal. About the same Time the said Errington and other Papists took out of a Meeting at Holeraw, and sent to Hexome and Morpeth Goals the following Persons, viz. John Hunter of Benfield-side, Cutbert Hopper of Dikenook, William Hopper of Ivystone, Ralph Hopper of the same, William Burrell, Andrew Raw, Anthony Richardson, Christopher Vickers, John Brown, John Ellison, George Ellison, and Richard Snowball, all of Derwent, Husbandmen, Robert Dickenson of Ivystone Labourer, Thomas Layburne of Derwent-Coat, Wright, Thomas Baker and Henry Baker of Knitchley, Husbandmen: All these were continued Prisoners near five Months. Soon after George Hornsby and Thomas Hornsby Yeomen, and Nicholas Pickering Wright, of Lenchester, Michael Ornesby, Gilbert Taylor and Thomas Jackson of Wilton, John Woodnas, Thomas Johnson and Christopher Johnson of Walnuke, were taken from a Meeting and sent to the Common Goal at Durham, where they continued six Months.

The Usage of such of the aforesaid Prisoners, as were in Durham Goal, is represented in a Letter from one of them to his Friends in London, dated the 10th of the Twelfth Month 1660, out of which the following Extract is taken verbatim, viz.

Extract of a
Letter relating
the Usage of
the Prisoners.

“ Beloved Friends,

“ YOUR refreshing Lines came to my Hand, which I communicated
“ unto my Fellow-prisoners, whereby the Life of the Righteous was
“ much cherished, and the living tender Plant of God's Renown watered as
“ with the refreshing Springs of the former and latter Rain. O, Dear Friends,
“ our Hearts are sealed in sweet Fellowship with you, in the ever-blessed Cove-
“ nant of Peace, Truth, and Righteousness, where the earning Bowels of our
“ Love and Unity breath toward you in the hidden Life of the Lord Jesus,
“ (who is our Head, Judge, and only Law-giver) which cannot be separated
“ by the Tossings of the Floods, nor swelling Noise of the raging Tempest,
“ having our Souls anchored upon the unmoveable Rock of Ages and Gene-
“ rations, where we find the still and secret Movings of his ever-blessed Spirit,
“ lifting up a Standard against Amalek and all his Accomplices.

“ Dear Friends, as touching the manner of our Sufferings here at this Place;
“ here are ninety and odd in Prison, very near an Hundred, most committed
“ for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, some being taken out of their
“ Meetings, and some out of their Houses and from their Employments, and
“ for refusing to Swear committed to Prison. We met with a very avaricious
“ inhuman Goaler, who, because we could not agree to his unreasonable De-
“ mand in paying 2 s. 6 d. per Week every Man for our Beds, threw twenty
“ of us into a stinking Dungeon, where we could not all lie down at once;
“ and put thirteen of us into another, where we remained five Days; but
“ the High Sheriff understanding it, manifested a large measure of Christian
“ Compassion towards us, and caused us to be removed to the House of
“ Correction, where we have had moderate Usage, and the rest were all
“ removed into a cold Room, where the Grand Jury wanted to sit, where
“ the Goaler still continued much Harshness, in respect they would not be-
“ come a Prey to his Covetousness, very hardly suffering any to come in to
“ them, saving twice a Day that his Man unlocked the Doors, and of late
“ would not suffer them to exonerate Nature.”

Distresses.

For Absence from the National Worship, John Moore, Hugh Teasdale, Wil-
liam Vaysey of Alstone, and Francis Shield of Burnfoot, had their Goods taken
away by Distress to the Value of 3 l. 2 s.

Imprisonments
in Tinmouth
Castle.

ANNO 1661. On the 10th of the Month called August, John Blakeling
of Drawell near Sedberg in Yorkshire, Yeoman; Thomas Jackson, Robert Fowler
of Burlington, Samuel Nelbest of Whitby in Yorkshire, Mariners; John Stockley,
Thomas

Thomas Allinson, William Hart, John Dove, and William Dove of Whitby, Yeomen; Mary Dove jun. of the same, Spinster; William Truthwaite of Bowden; Robert Linton, Thomas Chandler, Thomas Merriman, Lancelot Wardell Merchant, Thomas Smith Labourer, Richard Wilson and Margaret his Wife, George Carr Salt-Merchant, Sarah Knowles, Dorothy Dawson, Joane Sanderson, Spinsters, William Maud Merchant, George Linton, John Harrison, all of Sunderland or Shields, Susanna Truthwaite Spinster, and Laurence Hestam of Whitby in Yorkshire, Mariner, were taken at a Meeting at Robert Linton's in South-Shields by Major Graham, then Deputy-Governour of Tinnmouth Castle, and cast into nasty Holes there, where they lay a full Month, and then he turned them out, having, so far as appeared to them, neither Order, Authority, nor Warrant for any Part of his Proceeding.

In this Year also *Thomas Williamson*, cited to a Court, and appearing with his Hat on, was fined 5*l.* and for Non-payment sent to *Morpeth Goal*, where he lay three Months.

ANNO 1662. In the Month called *June* this Year, *William Foster* of *Carleton*, was sent to Prison by Order of Sessions, for suffering Meetings at his House. On the 3d of the Month called *August*, *Henry Grainger, Christopher Pickering, Francis Temple, and George Dickson*, all of *Raby*, Yeomen; *George Gundry* Milliner, *John Atkinson* Mason, of *Stanethrop*, and *James White* of *Hope-well* near *Pierce-Bridge*, were taken by Soldiers from a Meeting at *Henry Draper's* House in *Headlam*, and committed by a Justice to *Durham Goal* for nine Weeks. At next Sessions they were indicted, and *James White, Henry Grainger, and Christopher Pickering*, were fined 10*l.* each, for which Distresses were made on their Goods to the Value of 37*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* *John Greenwell*, for Meeting, was fined by the Bishop of *Durham* 40*s.* and for the second Offence 10*l.* for which Fines four Kine were taken from him worth 16*l.* Also *Richard Hopper*, for 10*l.* Fine, had Goods seized to the Value of 13*l.* In the same Year *John Moore* of *Wellgill*, for 12*s.* demanded for Tithes, suffered Distress of Goods to the Amount of 3*l.* 10*s.* In this Year also *William Mare, Nicholas Pickering, and Thomas Toole*, were imprisoned for Tithes; the two former remained Prisoners about eight Years.

Fines for Meeting.

Long Imprisonments.

ANNO 1663. In this Year *Hugh Hutchinson, Cuthbert Fetherstone, Thomas Williamson, and John Moore* of *Hazlewell* in *Allendale*, were committed to *Morpeth Goal* on Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*, for not paying Tithes: The first of them was continued Prisoner ten Years and four Months; the next two above ten Years; and *John Moore* upwards of six Years, who, during his Imprisonment, had his Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 9*s.* for being absent from the publick Worship. About the same Time *William Hodgson* of *Cockerton* was sent to Prison by an *Exchequer Writ* for Tithes, and continued there eight Months. In the same Year *Thomas Toole*, then in Prison, had 40*l.* worth of Goods taken from him for a Claim of 7*l.* for Tithes, besides Corn worth 4*l.* 10*s.* His Prosecutor also stopt in a Neighbour's Hand a Debt of 10*l.* due to the said *Thomas Toole*. In October this Year, *Christopher Crosby* was sent to Prison by an Order of Sessions, on the third Conviction upon the first Statute for Transportation; and *Richard Errington*, taken from a Meeting at the House of *Simon Townsend* in *Norton*, was committed to Prison during the King's Pleasure.

Imprisonments on Writs de Excom. Cap.

Distresses.

Imprisonments for refusing to Swear.

ANNO 1664. *William Truthwaite* of *West-Bowden*, for a Demand of 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for Tithes, had Goods taken away worth 7*l.*

On the 26th of the Month called *April*, *Ralph Pattison, Roger Hudson, John Blakestone, Thomas Chipchase, and Simon Townsend*, all of *Norton*, Yeomen; *George Brough* of the same, Farmer; *Robert Walker* and *Thomas Toole* of *Coopan*, Farmers; *Richard Errington* of *Gretbam*, *John Ulshaw, William Jekyll, and Mark Waps*, of *Stockton*, and *Margaret Adamtbwait* of *Rosendale* in *Westmorland*, Spinster, were taken at a Meeting in *Norton*, and ordered to appear at Sessions, whence they were all sent to Prison for refusing to take the Oaths.

In

DURHAM,
&c.
1664.

On the Act for
Banishment.

2 Received
Sentence of
Banishment.

Others com-
mitted on the
Act for Ba-
nishment.

Prisoners at
Morpeth.

Sentenced to
Banishment.

In the Month called *August* this Year, *Peter Mason*, *Robert Taylor*, *Henry Emerson*, *Ralph Hodgson*, *Thomas Johnson*, and *Henry Mason*, were committed to the House of Correction for six Months, on the Act for Banishment; as were *John Mason* and *Anne Taylor* for three Months. On the same Act were committed in *September*, *Richard Errington* and *John Rawlin*; in *October*, *John Blakestone* and *Christopher Crosby*; in *November*, *William Hutton jun.* *Richard Thompson*, *Ambrose Thompson*, and *Thomas Skafe* an Apprentice.

ANNO 1665. Many were committed to Prison on the Act for Banishment, viz. In the Month called *May*, *Thomas Shield*; in the Month called *August*, *Roger Hudson*, *Thomas Chipchase*, *Ralph Pattison*, *Thomas Yooles*, *Robert Walker*, *Mark Waps*, *George Brough*, *Patrick Wallis*, and *Rowland Wheldon*; in *September*, *Sarah Brough*, *Elizabeth Middleton*, *Thomas Yooles*, and *John Ushaw*.

At the Quarter Sessions in *October*, *Richard Errington* and *John Ushaw* received Sentence of Banishment to *Barbadoes*, and to continue in the House of Correction till an Opportunity of shipping them. During their close Confinement *Richard Errington* was taken sick, and his Friends were denied the Favour of removing him, so that the poor Man, after about two and twenty Months close Restraint, died a Prisoner for worshipping God according to his Conscience. *John Ushaw* was detained in Prison about three Years, probably till the Expiration of that Act. In this Year also were committed to *Durham Goal* on the same Act, *Richard Whitehead*, *George Jackson*, and *Henry Bowran*, for twenty one Days, and *John Bowran* for twenty Weeks: *Nicholas Pickering*, *George Ornesby*, *Thomas Ornesby*, *Ralph Hopper*, *William Hopper*, *Cuthbert Leighton*, *Andrew Raw*, *Anthony Richardson*, *John Brown*, and *William Green*, for six Weeks. In the same Year *Anthony Wilkinson*, *John Ellison*, and *Richard Snowball*, were committed to *Morpeth Goal*, where they continued seven Years. *Thomas Rowell* of *Woodhead*, for suffering a Meeting at his House, had three Cows taken from him worth 6*l.*

In this Year also, *Thomas Spark* and *Elizabeth Shield* were committed to *Morpeth Goal*, and kept there three Years: During their Imprisonment their Prosecutor took from him Corn worth 13*l.* and from her to the Value of 9*l.* *Ralph Fetherstone* and *John Brown* were also imprisoned for not paying Tithes.

ANNO 1666. At a Sessions held on the 20th of the Month called *April*, *Sarah Brough* received Sentence of Banishment to *Jamaica*: And at the same Sessions *Patrick Williamson* was committed to Prison for ten days. At *Durham Assizes* in the Month called *August*, *Thomas Yooles* and *Roger Hudson* were sentenced to be transported to *Barbadoes*. In the same Month, *James White*, *John Robinson*, *John Trotter*, *John Wilkinson*, *Thomas Robinson*, and *William Robinson*, taken from a Meeting at the said *John Robinson's* House in *Alnaby*; and *Peter Mason*, *Constance Baker*, and *Thomas Johnson*, taken at a Meeting in the said *Peter Mason's* House at *Branspeth*, were, by Warrant from the Bishop of *Durham* and other Justices, sent to Prison for two Months; the said *Constance Baker* having with her a Sucking-child. At the Sessions in *October*, *Edward Lamson* of *Bishops-Aukland*, *William Heavyside*, *Anthony Hodgson*, and *Emanuel Grice*, were sentenced for Transportation to *Barbadoes*. About this Time also *William Hutton*, *William Peacock*, *Edward Altwaine*, *John Graystone*, *John Robinson*, *Thomas Lawson*, *John Richmond*, *Henry Lox*, *James Hall*, *John Crawford*, *Christopher Richmond* and *William Trotter*, were taken from their Houses by some of the Trained Bands, and by Order of the Bishop, and Justice *Tempest*, committed, some of them to the Marshal's Custody, and others to the County Goal; whither also soon after *George Bilson* was sent from a Meeting at *Thomas Wrightson's* at *Norgill*: At which Meeting were likewise taken, *George Jackson*, *Henry Smith*, *George Appleby*, *John Bolran*, *Andrew Appleby*, *Thomas Wrightson*, *Francis Wrightson*, *Christopher Goodson*, *George Raine*, *Thomas Milbourn*, *Thomas Myers*, *William Hutton jun.* *Richard Thompson*, *James Raine*, *Dorothy Kestlop*, *Jane Wilson*, and *George Kipling*, who were committed by Justice *Robinson* of *Barnard's Castle*, to the House of Correction at *Richmond*.

ANNO

ANNO 1668. Simon Townsend was Prisoner for Tithes in October this Year, having then been confined seven Years at the Suit of Thomas Davison Vicar of Norton. DURHAM, &c. 1668.

ANNO 1670. Mark Stones of Stockton, for a Demand of 5s. for Tithes, had Goods taken from him worth 15s. In this Year also, William Hodgson was close Prisoner for Tithes, at the Suit of William Ward of Newcastle, Impropriator. George Wilson was also a Prisoner for Tithes four Years and eight Months. Long Imprisonments for Tithes.

After the Passing of the Conventicle Act this Year, many suffered Distress of Goods for themselves and others being at Meetings, viz.

	l.	s.	d.	
John Crawford of Blackwell, Yeoman	40	0	0	Many Distresses.
James Wastel of Haughton, Currier	30	5	0	
Thomas Pyborne and Anthony Claxton	6	6	0	

Pyborne's Case was somewhat singular, for when Miles Gerry, Constable of Nesham, had the Warrant sent him, he refused to execute it, and for that Refusal his own Goods were taken away to the Value of Pyborne's Fine, which was 6l. Pyborne, unwilling that his Neighbour should lose so much by favouring him, paid the Money and released the Constable's Goods.

At STOCKTON were taken from				
Christopher Crosby, four Cows worth	18	0	0	
Richard Watson, Richard Tindal, William Gores, Mark Waps, Robert Corney, and Thomas Rawlins	20	17	0	
Robert Boulton	20	0	0	
George Williamson, Roger Trotter, John Robinson, George Gundry, and John Langstaff	11	4	6	

At NORTON, from				
Thomas Chipchase, Simon Townsend, and John Blakestone	3	19	5	

At WOLVERSTONE, from				
Robert Young, for himself and Wife	0	14	0	

At CARLETON, from				
William Foster, Yeoman	4	0	0	

At COWPAN, from				
Thomas Yoole and Robert Walker	5	13	4	

At DARLINGTON, from				
Laurence Appleby, Edward Fisher and Cuthbert Thompson	20	0	6	

At HOPEWELL, from				
James White	1	15	0	

182 14 9

It was observable, that one Thomas Dawson, Overseer of Norton, having kept some Brass Utensils, Part of these Distresses, in his House above a Year, being visited with Sickness, was the Night before he died under so much Trouble of Mind, that he could not be satisfied till the said Brass was removed out of his House. It was also remarkable, that when a Warrant for levying 7l. on John Langstaff's Goods was brought to John Brown, Constable of Condon, he refused to serve the same, rather suffering a Distress on his own Goods to the Value of 3l. An Overseer's Trouble of Mind.

ANNO 1671. In this Year were taken from William Hodgson and John Robinson of Cockerton, for Tithes, Goods worth 3l. 10s. The said William Hodgson being then in Prison. A Constable fined.

ANNO 1672. By the King's Letters Patent were released out of Durham Goal, John Langstaffe, Humphry Norton, Joseph Heling, Francis Temple, John Hunter, Release of Prisoners.

DURHAM, Hunter, Thomas Toole, John Ushaw, Roger Hudson, Edward Lampson, Anthony
&c. Hodgson, Thomas Gower, and Emanuel Grice.

1673.

ANNO 1673. Taken for Tithes this Year,

Tithes, &c.

From John Robinson of Cockerton, and Laurence Appleby,
Corn worth

James Wastel, to the Value of

John Langstaffe of Whitley, Corn worth

Elizabeth Hopper, for 5s. demanded, a Mare worth

76	5	0
----	---	---

Thomas Wood of Cleadon, was imprisoned nine Months for 4s. 5d. for repair-
ing the Steeple-house there. And Margaret Haddock suffered Distress of Goods
for Wages of the Parish-Clerk at Sunderland.

Imprisonments.

ANNO 1674. Anthony Richardson of Holcrom, was committed to Mor-
peth Goal, at the Suit of Isaac Bassier, for Tithes. Also George Kipling of Bal-
dersdale was imprisoned in the Common Goal at York, on a Process in the Ex-
chequer for Tithes, at the Suit of Peter Ingram Priest at Rombald-Kirk.

On the 14th of the Month called February, Complaint being made to Henry
Coverly, a Justice of the Peace, of a Meeting at Croft-bridge-end in Harworth
Parish, he granted a Warrant, by which Distresses were made on the Goods

Distresses for
Meeting.

Of John Bolron, Robert Wilson, Robert Trueman, and

Cuthbert Thompson, to the Value of

Laurence Appleby, Edward Fisher, Richard Trotter,
and John Robinson

Thomas Pyborne and Christopher Appleby

John Robinson and Matthew Dent

l.	s.	d.
21	3	0
12	11	5
27	0	0
3	11	0
64	5	5

ANNO 1675. For a Meeting at Margaret Crawford's, in Darlington, on
the 4th of the Month called May, were taken

Distresses for
Meeting.

From Margaret Crawford and Laurence Appleby, four

Cows worth

John Robinson of Ulnaby, twenty two Sheep worth

Cuthbert Thompson, William Dobson, and

Christopher Hodgson

Edward Fisher, Laurence Appleby, Robert Wilson,

and Robert Trueman

l.	s.	d.
22	0	0
14	0	0
2	4	0
4	19	0
43	3	0

For Meetings, held this Year at Norton, by Warrants granted by George
Morland Justice, Distresses were made on the Goods

Distress for
Meetings.

Of John Blakestone, Ambrose Wright, Robert Chipchase,

Richard Watson, ——— Young, and William

Foster, to the Value of

Thomas Toole, William Geers, John Ushaw, John

Richmond, William Harrison, and Patrick Wallis

Thomas Chipchase, Simon Townsend, John Chipchase,

and Robert Walker

William Maddison, William Jekyll, Mark Waps,

and Christopher Crosby

l.	s.	d.
30	8	0
12	12	0
9	1	0
14	2	8
66	3	8

ANNO

CHAP. 13. of the People called QUAKERS.

179

ANNO 1676. For Meetings at the same Place, were taken

	l.	s.	d.
From Thomas Chipchase, Mark Waps, John Blakestone,	23	13	10
John Forster, Robert Heron, and George Swain-			
ton, Goods worth			
Christopher Crosby, Mark Staines, William Foster,	22	6	7
Robert Hariburn, and Richard Wheldon			

DURHAM,
8028
1676.
Distresses for
Meeting.

Richard Watson, for Preaching in a Meeting at Darlington, had six Cows taken from him, worth 30l.

ANNO 1678. Fines were this Year imposed on many Persons for Meetings at Stockton and Norton, and for Richard Watson's Preaching there, which when he understood, he went to George Morland the Justice, desiring him to recall those Warrants, and grant one against himself only, who had sufficient Effects to answer the same; but the Justice refused: And on the 9th of November Distresses were made

	l.	s.	d.
On Simon Townsend, John Blakestone, Christopher Crosby,	69	10	0
William Harrison, William Foster, Robert Pattison,			
Thomas Chipchase, James Peacock, and Cuthbert			
Hunter, to the Value of			
Edward Fleatham of Yarm in the County of York	31	10	9
Merchant, Benjamin Lindley, and John Langstaff			
	101	0	0

Distresses on
others for
R. Watson's
Preaching

The said Edward Fleatham was convicted in his Absence, without any Summons, by a Certificate from Justice Morland to James Pennyman, a Justice in Yorkshire, as Owner of one of the Meeting-houses; he appealed to the Quarter Sessions, but obtained no Redress. In like manner Distresses were made

Conviction of
an absent Per-
son.

	l.	s.	d.
On James Peacock, William Smith, Robert Heron,	28	12	0
Zachary Heron, Giles Calvert, and Eleanor			
Wheldon, to the Value of			
Daniel Toes, William Jekyll, Cuthbert Hunter,	35	2	8
William Harrison, Richard Watson, and Thomas			
Chipchase			
William Smith, William Laurence, Robert Hart-	12	10	0
burne, John Ushaw, James Peacock, and Robert			
Corney.			
	76	4	8

Other Dis-
tresses.

These last named eighteen were convicted in their Absence, without any Summons to answer their Accusers, on whose Information, whether true or false, they were convicted unheard, and generally ignorant of the Sums charged, the Officers refusing to shew their Warrants; which being complained of to one of the Justices, he confessed, that he had commanded them not to shew their Warrants. Thus the arbitrary Proceedings of inferior Officers were encouraged by those who should have checked them.

Arbitrary
Proceeding.

About the same Time Thomas Gathorne, Robert Fowel, William Wake, and Richard Halliman, Informers, or some of them, acquainted Justice Morland of a Meeting at Darlington, who issued his Warrant, by which were taken

	l.	s.	d.
From Edward Fisher, Margaret Crawford, Robert Trueman,	21	15	9
John Trueman, and Robert Appleby, Goods worth			

Distresses for
Meeting.

Carried over 21 15 9

DURAAM,
&c.
1678.

Joshua Middleton, Michael Collins, Cuthbert Thompson,
John Shaw, Thomas Nickson, William Dobson, and
Frances Comfit, to the Value of

Brought over 21 15 9

5 5 6

27 1 3

Hard Case of
a poor Widow.

This *Frances Comfit*, a poor Widow, near eighty Years of Age, was cruelly used by the distraining Officers: They turned her out of her House after eight at Night, and kept her out of her Bed in extream frosty Weather. At another Time *Foster*, the Constable of *Darlington*, with a Watchman, came to her House about Midnight, called to her to let them in to look for *Jesuits*, which she, fearing that they were drunk and would abuse her, refused: Upon which they got Stones, and after about an Hour's Disturbance, broke the Lock, and burst the Door open, to the grievous Terror of the poor ancient Woman.

We are next to relate the grievous Case of *Roger Hudson*, who was committed to Prison by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

“ *Dunelm* is.

Commitment
of R. Hudson.

“ WHEREAS the right Worshipful *Richard Lloyd*, Knight and Dr. of
“ Laws, Vicar general and Official of the right Reverend Father in
“ God, *Nathaniel*, by Divine Providence Lord Bishop of *Durham*, lawfully
“ constituted, by a Certificate under the Seal of his Office aforesaid, hath in-
“ formed us his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, and *Quorum* hereunder named;
“ that *Roger Hudson*, in the County and Diocese of *Durham*, Yeoman, was
“ duly cited to appear before him, to answer *Thomas Davison* Clerk, Master of
“ Arts, Vicar of the Parish and Parish-Church of *Norton* aforesaid, in a cer-
“ tain Cause of Tithes and other Ecclesiastical Rights, and upon his appear-
“ ing was judicially required to appear before him as aforesaid, at a certain
“ Time and Place likewise assigned to him, to take and receive a Libel in
“ the said Cause, at the Suit of the said *Thomas Davison* Clerk; and for his
“ Contempt in not appearing accordingly, he, the said *Roger Hudson*, was by
“ him pronounced *contumacious*: In such Contumacy he yet stands, not caring
“ to obey the Process, Proceedings, Decrees and Sentences of the Ecclesiasti-
“ cal Judge: Whereupon the said Official hath requested us to send forth our
“ Warrants for the attaching of the said *Roger Hudson*, and to proceed against
“ him according to the Power committed to us, by a Statute made to that
“ Purpose in the 27th Year of the Reign of *Henry the Eighth*, late King of
“ *England*. There are therefore in his Majesty's Name, strictly to charge and
“ command you to attach the Body of the said *Roger Hudson*, and bring him
“ before us to find sufficient Sureties bounden by Recognizance to yield due
“ Obedience to the Process, Proceedings, Decrees, and Sentences of the said
“ Official in the Cause aforesaid, according to the Tenour of the said Statute:
“ And if the said *Roger Hudson* shall refuse or neglect so to do, that then you
“ convey him to his Majesty's Goal at *Durham*, there to be kept without Bail
“ or Mainprize untill he shall enter into Recognizance as aforesaid: Given at
“ *Durham* under our Hands and Seals the 11th Day of *March*, Anno rni Ca-
“ roli secundi nunc Regis Angliæ, &c. Tricesimo, Annoq; Dom. 1678.

To the Bayliffs, Constables, and other
his Majesty's Officers in the County
Palatine of *Durham*, more espe-
cially to the Constables of *Norton*,
and to every or any of them.

“ JOSEPH STOKEL.

“ JOHN MORLAND.

Thus

Thus committed, the poor Man was closely confined eleven Weeks, in which Time, for want of Air, he fell sick, and applying to the Goaler for a little Liberty, he alledged, that he durst not grant it for fear of the Vicar, who threatened him with the Loss of his Place: However, when the Goaler saw him extremely weak, he, moved with Compassion, gave him some Liberty, and he quickly began to recover. But the Vicar complained against the Goaler at the next Assizes, when he was reprimanded by the Bench, and, as it was reported, fined 20*l.* After which the Goaler kept him very close, and he soon fell sick again; upon which, *Robert Selby*, a Physician of *Durham*, applied to the Under Sheriff, but not prevailing, he wrote to the *Vicar*, representing the Prisoner's Case, and that it was probable a little fresh Air might preserve his Life, but received from him this Answer:

DURHAM,
&c.
1678.

“ Sir,
“ I HOPE I am, and desire to continue a tender-hearted Man: Yet I
“ would not have you or others judge me a *soft Fool*, and one easily to be
“ wheedled out of his right Reason and Senses, by little phantastick Bugbears.
“ If *Roger Hudson* were not able to pay (though a *Turk*) I know what I have
“ to say; but if either you or he pretend Conscience for Non-payment of just
“ Debts or Dues, you must pardon me if I have as little Credit for, and give
“ as little Respect to that *Coynage* and *Cozenage*, as to one that picks a Purse,
“ or cuts a Throat by the same Pretence.”

This Letter shews the Disposition of its Writer, and how little he regarded the Life of his *Christian Neighbour*, whose Conscience opposed his Interest. The poor Sufferer, after above five Months Imprisonment, died a Victim to this Prosecutor's Vengeance. Being dead, he was buried in Woolen, as the Law directed, but his Sister having omitted to make Affidavit thereof till a Day or two after the Time limited by the Act, the Vicar got a Warrant from the Justices to make Distress for 5*l.* the Penalty of the Law in that Case; half of which fell to the Share of the Informer.

R. Rudson
died Prisoner.

The Vicar an
Informer.

ANNO 1680. Upon an Information of a Meeting held at *Durham*, Warrants were granted by *John Sudbury* Dean, *Dennis Greenvil* Achdeacon, *Cuthbert Hutchefon* Mayor, *John Morland*, *Ralph Davison*, and *Isaac Bassire*, Justices; by which were taken

Distresses for
Meeting.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>Robert Fisher</i> , at whose House the Meeting was,	}		
two Mares, six Oxen, and three Kine, worth		32	0 0
<i>Martin Nicholson</i> Grocer, Goods worth		76	0 0
<i>Robert Hetherington</i> , <i>William Hetherington</i> , <i>Robert</i>	}		
<i>Wallis</i> , and <i>William Hickson</i> , Goods worth		19	10 6
<i>Richard Hall</i> , <i>Richard Hopper</i> , <i>James Hall</i> , and	}		
<i>George Hall</i> , to the Value of		50	5 0
		177	15 6

And for another Meeting at the same Place, on the 29th of the Month called *June*, were taken from *Martin Nicholson*, *George Hall*, *James Hall*, and *Robert Doubleday*, Goods worth 45*l.*

About the same Time *John Ande* and *James Dickson*, Constables of *Market Audland*, became Informers, and procured Warrants from *Robert Eden* and *Cuthbert Caire* Justices, to make Distress for several Meetings, by which they took

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>Zachariah Murthwaite</i> and <i>William Spencely</i> ,	}		
Goods worth		16	7 0
<i>Anthony Hodgson</i> and <i>Edward Tonstall</i> , to the Value of		27	10 0
		43	17 0

DURHAM,
&c.
1678.

	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	43	17	0
John Trotter, James Trotter, and James White	31	7	1
John Dodson and Charles Watson, Goods worth	6	5	0
	81	9	1

For a Meeting at Jane Vickers's, in Raby, were taken from George Dickson, Henry Grainger, William Grainger, William Pickering, Jane Vickers, and Katharine Temple, Goods to the Value of 20 l. 5 s.

For a Meeting at Henry Grainger's, on the 17th of October, were taken from William Elstobb and Ralph Hodgson, Goods worth 10 l.

For a Meeting at Norton, were taken from Richard Watson, William Harrison, George Hall, Robert Hartburne, Christopher Crosby, Cutbbert Hunter, and William Smith, Goods worth 109 l. 14 s. 4 d.

For a Meeting at Darlington, on the 31st of October, were taken

	l.	s.	d.
From John Robinson, Michael Collins, Edward Fisher, Robert Trueman, and Richard Trotter, Goods worth	24	9	9
Eleanor Weldon, Robert Corney, Robert Hartburne, Laurence Strickland, Anne King, and Cutbbert Thompson	3	18	6
John Trueman, William Harrison, Giles Calvert, and William Laurence,	11	18	0
	40	6	3

Distresses
for Absence
from the pub-
lick Worship.

Many of the before-named Persons and others had also their Goods taken by Distress, for Fines of 12 d. per Day, for Absence from the National Worship, to the Value of 12 l. 13 s. 6 d. Some of whom were Margaret Foster, George Burden, Jane Richardson, James Anderson, Anthony Robinson, Christopher King, Thomas Paxton, Philip Richardson, and William Maud.

Hard Case of
E. Tonstall,
and R. Wat-
son.

Hard was the Case of Edward Tonstall of Bishops-Aukland, who, with two others, presented to the Justices, at their Quarter Sessions at Durham, an Account of the Sufferings of their Friends at that Time in that County, but instead of obtaining Redress, the Justices, at the Bishop's Motion, tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing to take it, he, who solicited for the Liberty of his Friends, was himself sent to Prison. Nor was the Case of Richard Watson of Norton less severe, who was sent to Goal by an Order of Sessions, specifying no particular Cause for his Commitment; it was as follows,

" In plena Sessione pacis tent apud Dunelm in Com. Dunelm, decimo
" quinto die Januarii, Anno rni Caroli secundi nunc Angliae,
" &c. 30^o.

Order of Ses-
sions for Com-
mitment of R.
Watson.

" FORASMUCH as Information is given unto this Court upon Oath, that
" Richard Watson, of Norton in this County, Yeoman, hath lately spoken
" divers Words tending to the Breach of the Peace of this Kingdom, and the
" Disturbance of the Government. These are therefore in his Majesty's Name
" to will and require you, that forthwith upon Receipt hereof, you appre-
" hend the Body of the said Richard Watson, and bring him before George
" Morland Esq; one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for this County,
" then and there to answer to such Matters and Things as on his Majesty's Be-
" half shall be objected against him: And in the mean Time shall be of the
" good Behaviour toward our Sovereign Lord the King, and all his Liege
" People. Which if he shall refuse or neglect to do, that then you do carry
" him to the Common Goal at Durham, there to remain till he shall willingly
" do

“do the same. Herein you are not to fail at your Perils. Given in the open Sessions above said. DURHAM, &c. 1678.

To the Bayliffs, Constables, and other his Majesty's Officers for this County, and especially to the Constables of Norton.

P. CUR.

“Exam. p. Fra. Crosby, Dep. Cler. Pacis. Com. Dunelm.”

After five Weeks Imprisonment he was brought to the Quarter Sessions, where the Chairman was said to blush at the extrajudicial manner of his Commitment, and, after a Charge not to go to any more Meetings, dismiss him without Fees.

Release of R. Watson.

ANNO 1681. William Peart was a Prisoner at Durham for Tithes, at the Suit of Luke Mawburne Priest, where he had been then confined about two Years. John Wilkinson also was imprisoned for Tithes, at the Suit of Edward Moorcroft Priest.

Imprisonments for Tithes.

Richard Hall, fined 10l. for Meeting, had eight Beasts taken from him worth 20l. Patrick Livingstone, preaching at Gateshead Meeting, was struck violently on the Shoulders with a Stick by George Simson, who, without any Warrant, charged Patrick to go with him, but he refused. Next Day the Justices Bassire and Moreland, sent him to Prison till next Sessions.

Imprisonment of P. Livingstone.

In the Month called January, John Turnball and Thomas Wake, taken from a Meeting at Embleton, were, by Order of Henry Ogle and Thomas Collingwood Justices, sent to Prison at Newcastle. Also John Watson and Hannah Davison, committed by the same Justices, continued in Prison above three Months.

More Imprisonments.

In October this Year, Michael Collins, Laurence Appleby, Ellinor Tompson, and Joshua Middleton, suffered by Distress, for religious Meetings, to the Value of 32l. 18s.

Taken also for Meetings,

	l.	s.	d.
From John Airey, Moses Fisher, James White, Lionel Hetherington, and Christopher Bickers, Goods worth	45	10	7
Bartholomew Turner, John Carneath, Mark Staines, George Hall, and Christopher Crosby	61	12	7
William Harrison, Cutburt Hunter, Richard Watson, William Geers, William Smith, and Thomas Chipchase.	68	0	0
John Wood, William Fenwick, Richard Hall, William Hetherington, Robert Wallas, Robert Haswell, Thomas Haswell, and Robert Hetherington	62	17	0
	238	0	2

In making these Distresses it was usual, with William Adamson and Richard Harperly, Constables of Stockton, to take away Goods without producing any Warrant. When they had taken what themselves declared sufficient, they would come again for more. They seized a Man's Cow, and when he told them he was not at the Meeting, they look'd in their List, and not finding his Name, left the Cow. They would sometimes make Seizures at Midnight. Having forcibly entered a Shop, and some Neighbours standing by who observed their Doings, they caused them to be bound over to the Sessions as Obstructors of Justice. Thus the Spoilers exceeded the Bounds of Law with Impunity, and it was dangerous to contradict them.

Illegal Acts of some Constables.

In this Year the Officers of Barnard's-Castle, by Warrants for twelve Fines, for Absence from the National Worship, took

From

DURHAM,

&c.

1681.

Fines for
Absence from
the National
Worship.

From *Richard Tomson, Christopher Eyons, Ellinor Bolton, Mary Hutton, John Bolron, Peter Allason, Edmund Robinson, John Walker, George Wilson, William Wilson, Roger Wilson, Matthew Hutcheson, Henry Bowran, and George Wilson, Goods worth*

l. s. d.

13 9 4

For the same Cause the Officers of *Lartington* took
From *Francis Wrightson, Thomas Wrightson, John Turner, Charles Key, Christopher Key, Christopher Goodson, Michael Wrightson, and Thomas Smith, Goods worth*

7 13 8

The Officers of *Bowes* made Distress on the Goods
Of *Henry Wennington, William Coats, Thomas Day, and William Alder, to the Value of*

5 4 0

Distresses.

By like Warrants the Officers of *Reeby and Staintborp* took
From *Cuthbert Brainbridge, Henry Grainger, William Pickering, Jane Vickers, George Dickson, Ralph Mason, John Heighington jun. John Wilkinson, William Heighington, and Martin Nicholson, Goods worth*

6 12 10

32 19 10

Sum of Dis-
tresses.

The Sums taken this Year, for Meetings and Absence
from the National Worship, amounted to

323 18 0

ANNO 1682. *Robert Wallis* of *Durham* was imprisoned for refusing to pay a Fine imposed on him for Absence from the National Worship.

In this Year also were imprisoned *James Halliday, Robert Hill, Thomas Wilkinson, John Airey, and Patrick Livingston*, who had been taken out of their religious Assemblies for Worship.

Emanuel Grice, after about six Years Imprisonment for Tithes, was released by means of the sudden Death of his Prosecutor, *Richard Ball* an Impropriator.

On the 9th of the Month called *June*, *James Wood* was committed to Prison at the Suit of *Thomas Davison*, Priest of *Norton*, for 9s. 8d. for Tithes.

E. Fisher died
Prisoner.

Edward Fisher and *Robert Trueman* had been close confined in *Durham* Goal above thirteen Months for Tithe, at the Suit of *Elizabeth Marsh*, Widow to the Priest of *Haughton*, when *Edward Fisher* fell sick and died there on the 31st of the Month called *May* this Year. His Death being represented to the Widow, she relented, and freely discharged *Trueman* about four Months after.

There were imprisoned this Year for refusing the Oath of Allegiance, *Thomas Fearon, Edward Tonstall, Mark Staines, William Gascoyn, and George Rook*: Also *Ralph Nicholson, Martin Nicholson, Robert Hetherington, John Hetherington, and Robert Wallis*, which last five had Sentence of *Premunire* past upon them.

In this Year many Distresses were made for Meetings, viz. taken

l. s. d.

From *Martin Nicholson, Anthony Hodgson, William Spencer, and John Dodgson, Goods worth*

69 0 0

James Vickers, Zachary Murthwaite, Sarah Hickby, John Dodgson, James Watson, Emanuel Grice, William Spencely, and James Trotter, to the Value of

81 0 8

Anne Arundel, Sarah Kirkby, William Spencer, Henry Trotter, John Allason, William Appleby, and Richard Middleton

33 6 11

183 7 7

For

DURHAM,
&c.
1682.

For Meetings at or near *Raby* were taken

From *Henry Grainger, William Pickering, Cuthbert Bam-
bridge, Jane Vickers, and Thomas Johnson, to the*

l. s. d.

63 8 0

Value of

And for Meetings at *Darlington,*

From *William Singleton, William Dobson, Robert Trueman,
Joseph Fisher, Christopher Appleby, Frances Con-
ceit, Thomas Hodgson, and George Williamson,*

65 14 0

Cattle and Goods

*Joshua Middleton, Laurence Appleby, Ralph Morgan,
John Robinson, Cuthbert Hodgson, John Trueman,
and William Lynas, Cattle and other Goods to*

92 4 6

the Value of

221 6 6

Taken also this Year at or near *Newcastle,* for Absence from the National
Worship,

From *Thomas Rumsford, Andrew Neale, Francis Foster, John
Heighington jun. John Wilkinson, Ralph Mason,
Martin Nicholson, and William Heighington, Goods*

l. s. d.

4 13 2

worth

The Sums taken this Year for Meetings and Absence from
the National Worship, amounted to

409 7 3

In *December* this Year, some of the Sufferers presented to the Justices a State
of their Case, intituled

" *A Representation of the Sufferings of the People of God called*
" *QUAKERS in Durham. A Copy of which is as follows, viz.*

" *To the Justices at Quarter Sessions, 4th and 5th Days of the*
" *Tenth Month 1682.*

" **W**E the People of God in Scorn called *Quakers*, living peaceably in
" the Fear of God, have undergone the Severity of the Law made to
" suppress seditious Conventicles, to the Loss of many Hundred Pounds,
" almost every Year since the Act took Date, whereby many honest and in-
" dustrious Families have been cruelly oppressed, and deeply impoverished;
" having the Testimony of a good Conscience in the Sight of God, that we
" are free from and clear of all seditious Conventicles, which we deny as con-
" trary to the Spirit of *Christ Jesus*, and the Faith we have received of him,
" neither have the Informers seen any such Thing among us. And we are not
" without a Witness in the Consciences of Men, among whom we have had
" our Conversation, that we are a People of no dangerous Principles or evil
" Practices, our Meetings being only to worship God according to the Com-
" mand of *Christ Jesus*, and Practice of the primitive *Christians*, or to provide
" for the Fatherless, Widows, and Poor, with other Christian Duties, which
" the Christian Religion requires.

" We are sensible that the late Act extended against us (beside the Encou-
" ragement of Self-ended Informers to swear almost any thing against us in
" our Absence for their Interest, whereby many grievous Oppressions have
" befallen us) in many other Particulars also exceeds the Severity of other
" Laws of this Realm, yet we have suffered many Extremities beyond the Se-
" verity of this Act, whereof the following Account may give some In-
" stances, which because they are fresh, and in your Power to redress, we shall
" only acquaint you with at present. Those many which are long since trans-
" acted, not coming so properly under your Consideration now, farther than

A Represen-
tation to the
Justices.

DURHAM,
 &c.
 1682.

“ being certified that many such have been these twelve Years, and you hereby
 “ made sensible thereof may be the more inclinable to redress these at present,
 “ and in Christian Wisdom to prevent any more for the future, that Oppres-
 “ sion may cease which the Righteous lie under, for which the God of Heaven
 “ is grieved; with whom that you may find Mercy in the great Day of Ac-
 “ count, is the Christian Desire of

“ Your Peaceful Friends and Neighbours

Emanuel Grice Anthony Hodgson
 James Trotter Jane Vickers
 Zachary Murthwaite Sarah Kirby.
 John Wilson

Lawless Acts
 of Informers.

To this Representation some particular suffering Cases were annexed, of which the lawless Acts of hungry Informers about this Time afforded many Instances: Some of them were so daring as to seize Goods without any Warrant or regular Conviction: Two of them, *Watson* and *Rickerby*, took away two Horses in the Night, intending to sell them to Persons appointed to meet them at *Ferry-bill* the next Morning, having promised them two of the best Horses the *Quakers* had: The Owner, pursuing the Spoilers, stopt the Horses before they were sold, and the Informers could not produce any Warrant or Authority for taking them. Complaint of this was made to the Bishop, who said, *they might be prosecuted for Felony*, and spake to the Sheriff about it, who examined one of the Informers, and he confessed their taking the Horses without any lawful Authority. The Sheriff reproved them, and ordered them to return the Horses, which they did, and to ask the Owner's Pardon, which they never did, nor did they refrain from repeating their lawless Practices: For at another Time, two of them, *Dickson* and *Rickerby* came to the House of *Jane Vickers* at *Raby*, where some of her Friends were eating: She asked the Informers to eat with them some Honey and Butter: They did eat and drink, and talked very familiarly, but went away and gave Information of a Conventicle at her House, where they had only seen Persons eating and drinking what themselves partook of: For this the hospitable Woman was fined 15*l.* and had her Cattle and Sheep taken away to the Value of 20*l.*

After the Informers had levied more than sufficient Distress on the Cattle of *Christopher Appleby*, they ordered the Constable to go again to his House with them, where they made a Seizure of his Beef, Cheese, and Household-Stuff: While they were thus pillaging the poor Man of his Family's Provision, Sir *William Clayton*, a Justice of the Peace, coming by, advised the Constable to forbear, and to represent to the Justices, that there was nothing farther to be levied without depriving the Family of Food and Lodging. By this Means those ravenous Creatures at that Time were disappointed of their Prey.

From *Frances Conceit*, a poor Widow about eighty Years of Age, who had been maintained by the Charity of her Friends for ten Years past; *Ratcliff* and *Boyse*, two Informers, took away most of her Apparel and Linen, with the Trunk they were in. When the Informers at another Time had sworn falsely against *Anne Arundell* for a Meeting she was not at, she appealed to the *Quarter Sessions*, where she plainly proved their Information false, and recovered her Goods at an Expence greater than her Fine. But the Justices were usually tender of the Informer's Reputation, whom they regarded as the King's Evidence, and whose Mistakes, however careless or wilful, they were disposed as much as possible to overlook.

ANNO 1683. For meeting together to worship God were taken by Distress this Year,

Fines for
 Meeting.

From Robert Trueman, Anne King, William Dobson, Laurence Appleby, Ursula Fisher, and Ellinor Tompson, all of } 56 8 8
 Darlington, Corn and Goods to the Value of

Carried over 56 8 8

	l.	s.	d.	
Brought over	56	8	8	
From Thomas Yalloy, Christopher Appleby, Thomas Hodgson,				
Anne Robinson, William Norton, Robert Hartburne,	45	12	3	
James Woods, and Christopher Crosby, Goods worth				
John Airey, Christopher Bickers, Francis Foster, Alex-				
ander Neale, George Lowry, Lionel Hetherington,	63	0	3	
Martin Nicholson, William Hetherington, Thomas				
Johnson, and Robert Hetherington, to the Value of				
Sarah Kirby, Zachary Murthwaite, Henry Grainger,				
Robert Hartburne, William Laurence, Margaret	31	3	7	
Walker, and Anne Chipchase, Goods to the Value of				
	196	4	9	

DURHAM,
&c.
1683.

In this Year, by an Order of John Morland, Isaac Bassire, John Duck, and Miles Stapleton Justices, thirty two Persons were taken from the Quarterly-Meeting at Durham, and committed to Prison; but through the Favour of the Bishop and the High Sheriff were released again in a few Days. Also Anthony Robinson and Margery Fan, taken at a Meeting, were committed to Prison by James Burden Mayor of Stockton; who also sent to Goal William Jekyll and Christopher Crosby, two elderly Men, after he had suffered them to be abused in his Presence, and one of them dragged in the Dirt fifty or sixty Yards. He also committed Thomas Chipchase, Robert Pattison, and George Hall, to Prison from a Meeting at Norton. Hugh White of Berkley was imprisoned on a Writ de Excommunicato capiende.

Abuses and
Imprison-
ments.

ANNO 1684. About the Month called June this Year, Thomas Brantingham died a Prisoner for Tithes in Durham Goal.

Death of
T. Branting-
ham.

For being at religious Meetings Distresses were made this Year on the Goods

	l.	s.	d.	
Of Samuel Freeman, Francis Foster, Robert Wallis, Henry				
Hunter, Lionel Hetherington, Robert Askew, Robert				
Fletcher, William Hewett, William Fenwick, Thomas	52	17	6	
Johnson, Ralph Hodgson, and William Testob, to the				
Value of				
Henry Grainger, William Pickering, Martin Nicholson,				
and Thomas Ornesby, to the Value of	36	10	0	
John Hunter, twenty Oxen and other Kine, three				
Horses and eleven Sheep, worth	51	4	0	
William Geers, Christopher Crosby, Zachary Murth-				
waite, Sarah Kirkby, and Robert Trueman, Goods	19	16	0	
worth				
William Dobson, Thomas Pyborne, Christopher Appleby,				
Laurence Strickland, and Robert Trueman	7	11	0	
	167	18	6	

Of these Sufferers, though many of them were Men of Substance, others were poor: One of them, William Hewett, was a poor Labourer, from whom the Informers took most of his wearing Apparel; after which he still continuing constant in going to Meetings, the Justices, Bassire and Jenkins, sent him to the House of Correction. Another of them, Thomas Pyborne, was so poor, that when the Informers brake into his House, and seized all his Household Goods, the Constable, moved with Compassion to the Man and his Family of young Children, gave the Informers 20 s. to desist from their Attempt. A third, Laurence Strickland, was reduced, for want of Bedding, to much Hardship, having nothing of necessary Bedclothes left for him and his Family to cover themselves. A fourth, Robert Trueman, having been several Times

Oppression of
the Poor.

DURHAM,
&c.
1684.

Times distrained on, at last had the poor Remainder of his Goods taken away worth but 20s. These Men, though poor in this World, were rich in Faith, patient in Affliction, and unmoveable in the Stedfastness of performing their religious Duties.

On the 3d of November, *Ellinor Grainger, Elizabeth Wilson, Anne Card, William Hewett, William Heron, John Ramsford, Henry Middleton, and William Hodgson*, taken at a Meeting the Day before, were by the Justices, *Bassire* and *Jenkins*, committed to the House of Correction in *Durham* to be kept to hard Labour, and were detained there about ten Weeks, till the Sessions, at which they were dismissed with Threats, and charged to come at no more Conventicles. *George Swallow* was also imprisoned about the same Time. There were also about that Time in Prison, *Lionel Johnson, Isaac Robinson, Samuel Freeman, Robert Askew, and Philip Simson*.

Excommuni-
cations.

On the 24th of the Month called *January*, *John Young* and *John Willoughby*, both of *North-Shields*, were committed to *Morpeth Goal* by a Writ de Excommunicato Capiendo.

Distresses.

About the same Time *William Singleton, Laurence Appleby, and Joshua Middleton*, had their Goods taken by Distress, for their religious assembling to worship God, to the Value of 12l. 6s.

Hardened In-
formers.

Remarkable was the Insolence of *Boyse* and *Ratcliffe*, drunken Informers, who coming to the House of *Robert Trueman*, when only his Wife, Maid, and a little Child were within, split the Door with a Smith's Hammer, and with one of the Splinters hurt the Maid who was coming to open it, and finding little in the House (for they had before taken away almost all the Goods) abused the Woman, calling her *Whore*, and affrighted the Child: One of the Informers, like an hardened Reprobate, swearing, that he car'd not what he did, for, said he, *I am as bad as I can be*.

Distresses.

In this Year were taken by Distress, for Absence from the National Worship,

From *Mary Corn, Christopher Crosby, Thomas Ornesby, William Pickering, Martin Nicholson, Mary Hutton, George Oates, and Francis Foster*, Goods to the Value of

30 8 0

Impudence of
Informers.

About this Time *James Dickson, John Hudspath, and Lancelot Rowel*, Informers, behaved with an Impudence scarce to be paralleld. They came to the House of *Thomas Hedley* of *Hedley-hill*, with a Warrant demanding a Fine of 5l. The Man being weak, and terrified by their Threats, gave them 20s. and they blotted his Name out of the Warrant. In like manner they extorted from *Christopher Vickers* 20s. threatening to distrain for a Meeting he had not been at. So arbitrary were those Informers, that they set themselves above the Justices, and assumed a Power of altering their Warrants by putting in or out whom they pleased. They were so presumptuous, as to undertake to indemnify Persons, and gave a kind of negative Licence to go to Meetings. They gave a Bond for a 100l. to one *Thomas Hunter*, not a *Quaker*, conditioned for their not disturbing, but keeping harmless several of his Relations for being at any Meeting in this County. The like Bonds they gave to others who were not *Quakers*, and contracted for Sums of Money to leave People out of their Informations.

In this Year were taken from *Christopher Vickers*, a Mare, four young Beasts, five Sheep, and other Goods, worth 12l. 11s. 6d.

Sum of this
Year's Dis-
tresses.
Gross Abuse
of Authority.

The whole of the Distresses this Year, for Meetings and Absence from the National Worship, amounted to 222l. 14s.

We shall close the Account of this Year with an Instance of much Passion and Abuse of Authority exercised by the Justices *Bassire* and *Jenkins*, on *John Hedley* a Servant to *Christopher Bickers* a Grocer in *Gateshead*. *Hedley* observing the Officers coming to make a Seizure of his Master's Goods, put a Bar cross the lower Part of the Shop-door, which was shut before. The Constable seeing this, leapt over the Door, saying, *Sirrah, do you intend to knock me on the*

the Head with the Bar, though there was not the least Colour or Appearance of any such Design: However, the Constable hurried him away to the Justices then in Town at a Tavern. They required *Hedley* to kneel down on his bare Knees and beg Pardon: He refused, alledging, *that he had not committed any Offence*. Upon this one of the Justices took him fast by the Hair on one Side of his Head, and the other on the other Side, and so pulled him up and down the Room, calling him *Dog, Whelp*, and such like Names as their Anger suggested, bidding him *kneel down or they would have him scourged*: But he not submitting to their reasonless Requirings, Justice *Jenkins* with his own Hands stript him, and ordered an Officer immediately to whip him through the Street to his Master's Shop: Which was done, the People generally exclaiming against the Illegality and Barbarity of their Doings. No Wonder that Informers exceeded the Bounds of Law, when the Justices gave them such Examples.

DURHAM,
&c.
1684.

ANNO 1685. *William Peart* of *Craik* in *Yorkshire*, but in the Diocese of *Durham*, was committed to Prison by Warrant from *Marmaduke Allason*, Mayor of *Durham*, and another Justice, grounded on a Certificate of Contumacy out of the Ecclesiastical Court, at the Suit of *Luke Mawburne* Priest, who had formerly kept him a long Time in Goal. While he lay in Prison the Priest's Agents took Hay and Corn off his Ground in what Quantities they pleased.

Suffering of
W. Peart.

By Warrant from *John Morland* of *Durham*, a Justice of the Peace, upon the Informations of *Richard Noble*, *John Curry*, and others of *Bishop's-Aukland*, several Persons had their Goods taken by Distress, for being present at religious Meetings, viz.

	l.	s.	d.	
<i>Edward Tostall, * John Walton, and James White</i> , to the Value of	13	9	4	Distresses:
<i>Zachary Murthwaite, Margaret Spencely, James Trotter, Emanuel Grice, and William Pickering</i> , to the Value of	14	1	0	
Taken also from <i>George Williamson, Laurence Appleby, and Joseph Fisher</i> , Cattle and Goods worth	22	0	0	
	49	10	4	

The Informers having a Warrant against *Ralph Hodgson*, the Constable they would have given it to refused to execute it, alledging that the Place was out of the Verge of his Office. Upon this the Informers got a Warrant against him for Neglect of Duty, and made him pay 5*l.* which he recovered again upon *Ralph Hodgson's* Goods.

Constable
fined.

The Sum of the Distresses this Year amounted to 54*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*

ANNO 1686. *John Walton* of *Bishop's-Aukland* had taken from him, for Absence from the National Worship, an Horse worth 6*l.*

At the Affizes this Year, those who remained in Prison were generally discharged by the King's Proclamation; among whom was *Thomas Sparks*, who had been imprisoned about thirteen Years on a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo*: But *Hugh Williamson* died in Prison about a Month before.

ANNO 1687. Taken from several Persons in *Durham* and *Northumberland*, Tithes in Kind amounting to 12*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*

ANNO 1688. At *Sunderland*, on the 20th of *December* between eight and ten at Night, *William Shepherdson*, *William Hincks*, and *Gerrard Sidgewick*, Masters and Mariners, *Edward Robinson* and *John Mickson* Fitters, all of that Town, broke two Locks, entred the Meeting-house, the Copyhold Estate of *William Maud*, pulled out a Form and went away. About one of the Clock the same Night they returned with a Rabble of Boys, and the baser Sort of the People, and broke open the House again, pulled up and burnt the Floors, Doors,

Demolishing
a Meeting-
house.

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B b b

* The said *John Walton* was imprisoned, for that he, being Constable, refused to act in making Distresses on the Goods of his Friends who were fined for their Meetings.

DURHAM, Doors, and Windows, Seats, and Roof of the House, totally demolishing it before eight next Morning: About which Time *Shepherdson* marched in the Front of the Rabble with his Sword by his Side, when they broke the Windows of several Houses of the People called *Quakers* as they passed the Streets.

Titbes.

Poll-Act.

Titbes.

William Maud brought an Action of Trespass against *Hincks* and others for demolishing his House, and made legal Proof of 49*l.* Damages: But the Jury gave him but 20*s.* upon which he proceeded no farther, but sat down with his Costs of Law added to the Damage of his House.

ANNO 1689. In this and the next preceding Year, several Persons had Corn taken out of their Fields for Tithe, to the Value of 30*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

ANNO 1690. *Robert Wardell*, for refusing to pay 20*s.* assessed on him as a Preacher by the Poll-Act, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 1*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* In this Year also several Persons had their Corn taken for Tithes, to the Amount of 43*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*

C H A P. XIV.

ESSEX.
1655.

E S S E X.

ANNO 1655.

Sufferings of
J. Parnel.

THE first Sufferings in this County which occur to our Notice, were those of *James Parnel*, who, when sixteen Years of Age, was convinced of the Truth by the Ministry of *George Fox*, then Prisoner in the Dungeon at *Carlisle*. He gave early Proofs of his Patience and Constancy by suffering Imprisonment in *Cambridgeshire*, of which we have already made mention in our Account of that County, pag. 86 foregoing. Being about eighteen Years of Age, he came into *Essex*, preaching the Doctrine of the Gospel with such Efficacy, that many were convinced, and among others *Stephen Crisp*, afterward an eminent Teacher of the same Doctrine. *Parnel*, as he was coming out of *Nicholas Steeple-house* in *Colchester*, where he had been exhorting the People to Repentance, was met by a blind Zealot who struck him a violent Blow with a great Staff, saying, *There, take that for Christ's Sake: To whom the innocent Sufferer meekly answered, Friend, I do receive it for Jesus Christ's Sake.* From thence he went to *Coggeshall*, where the Independent Professors had appointed a Fast, on purpose to pray against the spreading of Error, by which they meant the *Quakers* Doctrine. The Priest, who officiated on that Occasion, uttered many Invectives against that People, such as Prejudice and Prepossession had furnished him with. *James Parnel* stood still till the Priest had done, and was coming down from his Pulpit, when, thinking it his Duty to undeceive the People, he said to the Priest, *I am ready to prove that the Quakers are not on a Sandy Foundation, and that thou art a false Prophet and Deceiver.* After some Words had passed, a Person standing by accused *Parnel*, saying, *that he owned no Church: He replied, That's false.* Then being asked, *What Church he owned?* He answered, *The Church in God.* Whereupon the Priest said, *That was Nonsense.* But *Parnel* taking a Bible out of his Pocket, shewed, that it was a Scripture Expression, and charged the Priest with *Blasphemy* in calling it *Nonsense.* On his coming out of the Steeple-house he was apprehended, and, after Examination, committed to *Colchester Castle*, by a Warrant signed by four Justices, containing the following Charge, viz.

" THAT

ESSEX
1655.

Warrant for
his Commit-
ment.

“THAT the said James Parnel, with many other Persons of his
“gathering together, did in a riotous Manner enter into the Parish
“Church at Great-Coggeshall, and there being a great Number of Christians
“met in the said Church, to hold and keep a Day of publick Humiliation
“and seeking of God, and being in order thereunto then exercised in the
“Divine Worship and Service of Almighty God, he the said James did
“then and there stand up, and told the Minister *he blasphemed and spake*
“*fallly*, and used many other reproachful Words against the said Minister,
“and afterward he departed the said Church, and went into the common
“Highway in the said Town of Great-Coggeshall, with a great Number of
“Persons his Followers, who kept there unlawfully together, and some of
“them gave out menacing and threatening Speeches, tending to the Breach of
“the Peace, and against the Law; and also the said James cannot give us a
“very good Account of himself, where he was last settled, or of his Life
“and Conversation, but doth farther appear to us to be an idle and disorderly
“Person.”

To this *Mittimus* J. Parnel afterward published an Answer, in a Book called
The Fruits of a Fast, printed by Giles Calvert, Anno 1655, wherein he shews
the Errors and Inconsistencies of the Charge against him, justifying the Peace-
ableness of his own Demeanour at that Time; and also gives a solid and
Christian Account of the Work of God upon his Soul, and the Necessity
laid upon him to testify against the Formalities and *Will-Worship* of Man's In-
vention.

Being in Prison he was closely confined, and at the Time of the next Af-
fizes, held a few Weeks after at Chelmsford, he was fastned to a Chain with
Felons and Murderers, and so led above twenty Miles through the Country,
remaining chained both Night and Day.

Brought among
Felons to the
Affizes.

At his Trial he was brought to the Bar hand-cuff'd, but the People ex-
claiming against that Cruelty, at his next Appearance the Manacles were taken
off. The Judge seemed resolved against him, saying, *that the Lord Protector*
had charged him to punish such Persons as should contemn either Magistrates or
Ministers: And in his Charge to the Jury, he directed them to bring him in
Guilty, which they readily did: He was fined 40*l.* and sent again to Prison till
Payment. And the Goaler was ordered not to let any *giddy-headed People*,
by which was meant *his Friends*, come at him.

The Judge
prejudiced
against him.

The Goaler observed his Orders, to which the Cruelty of his own Disposition
also inclined him, for he would suffer none to come to him but such as abused
him; and the Goaler's Wife, equally cruel, not only ordered her Servant to
beat him, but struck him with her own Hands, swearing *she would have his*
Blood. When his Friends sent him Victuals, she ordered the other Prisoners to
take it; and when a Bed was sent him, she refused to let him have it, but
constrained him to lodge on the hard damp Stones. After this he was put into
an Hole in the Castle-Wall, not so wide as some Bakers Ovens, which Hole
being a great Heighth from the Ground, and a Ladder, used to go up by, be-
ing several Feet too short, he was obliged to climb up and down by a Rope
to fetch his Victuals or other Necessaries: For when his Friends would have
given him a Cord and a Basket to draw up his Food in, the cruel Keeper
would not suffer it. By lying long in that damp Hole, his Limbs were be-
numbed; and as he was going up the Ladder with his Food in one Hand,
attempting to lay hold on the Rope with the other, he missed his Aim, and
fell down on the Stones, by which he was so wounded in his Head, and bruised
in his Body, that he was taken up for dead. Then they put him into an Hole
underneath the other, there being two Stories of such narrow vaulted Holes in
the Wall: Here, when the Door was shut, was scarce any Air, there being
no Window or Place beside to let it in. Thus bruised with the Fall, and shut
up where he could hardly breath, there was little Hope left of his Life.

His close and
cruel Confine-
ment.

Whereupon

ESSEX.
1655.

*His Death,
and Character.*

*Their Testimo-
ny to the Light
of Christ gave
great Offence.*

*Many Imprison-
ed.*

*Some whipt.
Others set in
the Stocks.*

*Many Insults
and Abuses.*

Whereupon two of his Friends, *William Talcot* and *Edward Grant*, wealthy Tradesmen of that Town, offered to be bound in sufficient Bonds, and *Thomas Shortland*, another of his Friends, offered to lie in Prison in his Stead, so that he might have Liberty to go to *William Talcot's* House till he might recover of his Bruises, but this was denied. Nor would the Goaler suffer him to walk sometimes in the Yard, as other Prisoners did. It happened once, that the Door of his Hole being open, he went forth into a narrow Yard between two high Walls, at which the Keeper in a Rage lockt up the Door and shut him out in the Yard all Night, in the cold Time of Winter. His Constitution being much impaired by cruel Usage and hard Imprisonment, after ten or eleven Months he fell sick and died. Two of his Friends, *Thomas Shortland* and *Anne Langley*, were present at his Departure. When Death approached, he said, *Here I die innocently*: And a little after, *Now I must go*. He had often said, that *One Hour's Sleep would cure him of all*. The last Words he was heard to speak were, *Now I go*, and then stretching himself out, slept about an Hour, and breathed his last. He died a Youth, about nineteen Years of Age, but approved himself a strong Man in Christ, and having an Eye to the Eternal Recompence of Reward set before him, persevered faithful to his End through manifold Sufferings, with a remarkable Innocence, Patience, and Magnanimity. His Persecutors, instead of repenting of their Cruelty, the apparent Cause of his Death, raised a slanderous Report of his hastning his own End by willfully abstaining from Food: But that Report was proved false by the Testimony of credible Witnesses, who were frequently with him during his Sicknes; and to whom that groundless Calumny was a clear Indication of the deep-rooted Malice of those who invented it.

ANNIS 1656, 1657, 1658, and 1659. Many in this County were zealously concerned to publish the Doctrine of the *Light of Christ*, and the Necessity of Obedience thereunto, for which Cause they frequently went to the publick Places of Worship, waiting for the most part till the Priest had ended his Sermon, and then declaring to the People their own Experience of the Work of Truth, reproving Sin in all, and exhorting to Repentance and Amendment of Life; they also publickly testified against Superstition and Will-Worship, and spared not to caution Men to beware of being seduced by false Teachers, who regarded more their own Interest and Promotion, than the Purity of their Doctrine. This plain and Christian Testimony, however effectual to the Conversion of many, gave great Offence to those who hated Reformation, and particularly incensed the Priests, who having no small Influence on the Magistrates, excited them to suppress the Messengers of such Tidings, whom they misrepresented as Disturbers of the publick Peace and Worship, under which Pretence they procured the Imprisonment of *William Monk* of *Sandon* two Years and four Months; *John Claydon* of *Hadstock* sixteen Months; *Anne Langley* at one Time ten Weeks, and at another Time fifteen Weeks; *George Rose* about five Months; *William Allen* of *Samford* about a Year; *Stephen Hubersty* of *Burnham* five Weeks; *John Davidge* in the House of Correction a Month; during which Time none of his Friends were suffered to visit him; *Martha Simonds* four Months, and two of her Friends, who came to see her, three Days. Beside these were imprisoned for the same Cause, *John Sewel* of *Gestlingthorp*, *John Child* of *Felsted*, *Samuel Skillingham*, *Mary Cooke*, *Jonathan Bundoock* of *West-Bergholt*, *Thomas Shortland*, *Stephen Crisp*, *Edmund Cross*, *Anne Stammage*, *John Eve*, and *Anne Child*. Also *Matthew Hodson*, *Joane Desborough*, *Edward Grant*, and *John Hall*. *Anne Humphry* was imprisoned in *Bridewell*, where *John Tomlin*, *Margaret Gray*, and *George Ede*, were not only close confined, but also cruelly whipt. At *Saffron-Walden*, *William Robinson* was imprisoned, and *George Whitehead* set in the Stocks. Others there were whose Christian Advices and Exhortations met with Returns of illegal and barbarous Abuses from the Populace, the worst of whom, animated by the Priests, and unrestrained by the Magistrates, treated them most inhumanly: Many and grievous were the Insults, Stonings, Beatings, Bruises, Scoffings, and Revilings, patiently

patiently endured by *John Child, Anne Child, John Chandler, Henry Fell, Robert Debnam, Mary Bourne, Zachary Child*, and others. At *Halstead*, *John Isaac*, having a Concern to warn the People, and unwilling to give Offence, committed the same to Writing, which he left at the Steeple-house; for this he was sent to Prison, and afterward fined twenty Marks.

The religious Zeal of this People, in frequenting their Assemblies for Worship, obliged them to travel to the Places where they were held, which being sometimes at a considerable Distance, their going to or coming from them on the First-day of the Week, was called a *Breach* of the Sabbath, and punished by Fines, Distress of Goods, or Imprisonment. For this Cause *Samuel Skillingham* and *Zachary Child* going to a Meeting at *Weathersfield*, were stoppt by Wardens in the Street, and sorely beaten and abused by a Justice's Clerk: And for the same Cause *Elizabeth Court* was sent to the House of Correction, where she was whipt, and suffered much cruel Usage, being kept without Candle or Fire in the cold Winter, when she was sick of an Ague. *John Child*, for riding to a Meeting, had his Horse taken away, and kept from him three Weeks, and then return'd Home without Bridle, Saddle, Pillow, or Cloth, all which they detained for a pretended Forfeiture. *Edmund Cross, John Pike, Jeffery Bullock, Richard Waite*, and *William Halley*, were taken out of a Meeting at *Horsley*, and set in the Stocks six Hours, for coming thither on the Sabbath-day. For the same Cause *Edward Morrell* and *Anne Child*, by the Direction of the Priest of *Stebbing*, were taken from a Meeting there, and kept under Guard in an Alehouse all Night. And under the like Pretence *Richard Potter* and *William Suffall* were committed to Prison. The Wife of one *John Chopping* being seen going homeward, on that Day, her Husband was fined, and had his Goods distrained. *Zachary Child* and *Anne Child* returning from *Colchester*, where she had been to visit her Husband in Prison, were kept by an officious Constable at *Braintree*, detained all Night in an Inn-yard in cold Weather, and next Day were fined 10s. each. Some were imprisoned on an Accusation of working on the First-day of the Week, a Pretence with which the extream Superstition of those Times furnish'd those who were addicted to it, and gave them an Opportunity of persecuting Men more religious and righteous than themselves, and better qualified to discern the Nature of the true Christian-Sabbath, and of that perpetual Rest from the Bondage of Sin, which the true Believers in Christ are entred into: Hence proceeded the Imprisonment of *Thomas Chitham, Thomas Shortland*, and *John Tomlyn*: And under the same Pretence *Thomas Lee* of *Steeple* was fined 20s.

Richard Norton of *Coggeshall*, for Fines of 6l. for refusing to Swear, had his Goods taken away by Distress: And *Griffith Perry*, for the same Cause being fined 20s. suffered the Loss of two Cows valued at 11l.

In these Years we have divers Instances of exorbitant Seizures for Tithes, viz.

	l.	s.	d.		l.	s.	d.
For	50	0	0	Demand, were taken from			
				<i>John Pollard</i> of <i>Steeple</i> , Corn,	322	0	0
				&c. to the Value of			
	6	0	0	<i>Moses Davie</i> of <i>Felsted</i>	28	0	0
	5	0	0	<i>John Crosier</i>	23	0	0
	0	10	0	<i>Robert Adams</i> of <i>Feering</i>	5	10	0
	2	10	0	<i>Griffith Perry</i> of <i>Linsel</i>	20	0	0
	2	14	0	<i>John Adams</i> of <i>Hadstock</i>	27	0	0
	0	10	0	<i>Samuel Warner</i> of <i>Boxted</i>	5	10	0
	17	9	0	<i>John Choppin</i>	25	15	0
	20	0	0	<i>Robert Nichols</i> of <i>Colne</i>	50	0	0
	10	0	0	<i>Josiah Smith</i> of <i>Little-Samford</i>	45	0	0
	1	19	0	<i>John Cakebread</i> of <i>Great-Samford</i>	6	10	0
For	116	12	0	Demanded, Taken to the Value of	558	5	0

ESSEX.
1656, to
1659.

Their religious
Constancy in
Meeting.

Punished as
Sabbath-
breaking.

Nature of the
Christian-
Sabbath.

Distress.

Exorbitant
Seizures for
Tithes.

ESSEX.
1656 to
1659.

Imprisonments
and Distresses
for Tithes.

The above-named *John Pollard* was also imprisoned in *Colchester* Castle fourteen Months, in the Upper Bench five Months, and in the Fleet some Years after.

Sarah Cadney of *Much-Braxsted* had taken from her, for Tithes, by Distress, two Cows worth 11 l.

Among those who were Prisoners for Tithes in *Colchester* Castle, were *John Crozier* and *Moses Davie*, who continued there twenty one Weeks; *John Adams* six Months; *Robert Abbott* of *Colne*, and *Thomas Mumford* of *Saling*, two Years and four Months; *Henry Smith* of *Saling* three Months; the Widow *Balls* and her Son *William Balls* twenty Months; though the Son was not at that Time the Occupier of any Land: *Edward Morel* of *Thaxted* nine Weeks; *James Potter* of *Marks-Tey* was committed in November 1658, and continued several Years; *Thomas Ellam* and *John Evans*, both of *Much-Easton*; also *John Emson* and *William Crow*, both of *Barfield*, committed in the Year 1659, remained there some Years: *William Ennover* of *Broxted* was imprisoned for Tithes twenty two Weeks.

In these Years *Robert Ludgater*, *Thomas Creek*, *Richard Horton*, *Richard Ames*, *Samuel Norion*, *William Boggs*, the Widow *Balls*, and *Richard Lack*, severally suffered the Seizure of their Goods, for refusing to pay the usual Assessments toward the Repairs of the Parish Worship-houses.

For not bearing Arms.

John Furlly of *Colchester*, for refusing to send an Horse and Man, when summoned to serve in the County Militia, suffered by Distress to the Value of 3 l. 5 s. Also *Arthur Condon*, for a Demand of 4 s. toward the Charge of the Trained-Bands, had a Coat taken from him worth 20 s.

For Marrying.

Francis Marriage of *Stebbing*, was imprisoned in *Colchester* Castle for being Married in another Manner than according to the Form of the Directory.

A remarkable Occurrence.

We shall next make mention of a remarkable Incident which occurred at *Halsted*, where one *William Simson*, under a religious Concern, passed through the Streets, with his Body naked, as a Sign to the People, when an ill-minded Man named *John Folks*, gave him several cruel Strokes with a Whip. *William* bearing it patiently, said to the Standers by, *Mark the End of that Man*: It so happened that a short Time after, *Folks*, walking into his Yard seemingly in good Health, fell down dead immediately.

A Meeting at Harwich.

ANNO 1660. On the 16th of the Month called *May* was a Meeting at *Harwich*, appointed some Days before, it being on the First-day of the Week, to which about forty Persons were coming over the River in Boats, (a thing usual on that Day for People coming to the National Worship) but the Mayor would not suffer them to come on Shore; and when *Robert Grassingham*, an Inhabitant of that Town, and Shipwright to the Admiralty, sent his own Boat with two Servants to fetch over some of his Friends, the Officers forbid it, and by the Mayor's Order put the said Servants in the Stocks, and kept them there several Hours: However, such Friends as were in the Town met, and the House was soon filled with sober and peaceable People, to whom *George Fox* the * Younger was preaching, when a great Company of rude Seamen and others came, who being prevented by the Press of People from coming near to abuse the Preacher, cursed and swore most outrageously, some of them threatening to pull down the House, others crying out, *The King is now coming, who will hang or banish you all*. *George Fox* hearing their abominable Oaths and Imprecations, was much grieved in Spirit thereat, and in a pious Zeal against their Wickedness, uttered these Words, *Wo, Wo, unto the Teachers and Rulers of this Nation, who suffer such Ungodliness as this, and do not seek to suppress it*. Some of the People forthwith reported, or perhaps misreported, this to the Magistrates, who presently sent the High Constable and others to fetch *George Fox* by force out of the Meeting-house into the Street, where the Mayor was,

* So called by his Friends, to distinguish him from the other *George Fox* who had been longer a Minister among them.

was, who hastily commanded him to Prison: George desired to know what Law he had transgressed, for that it was unjust to imprison him without legal Cause. The Mayor answered, *You shall know that afterward*, and so he was hurried away to Prison unexamined. Robert Grassingham in brotherly Love accompanied him to the Goal, and when the Rabble, as they passed the Street, abused him, said to the Constables, *You ought to see the Peace kept, and not suffer the Prisoner to be abused.* After he had been some Time in Prison, a *Mittimus* was sent signed by the Mayor and two others, wherein they charged him with *causing a Tumult, and disturbing the Peace of the Borough*: Thus imputing to the innocent Man the Guilt of that Disturbance which was raised by those who abused him. As justly might Lot and the Angels have been charged with causing a Tumult in Sodom, when the Wicked surrounded Lot's House. Nor was it the Aim of the Magistrates of Harwich to punish disorderly Persons, for while George Fox was there in Prison, it was frequent with Drunkards both Day and Night to pass by, and coming to the Gate of the Prison would curse him bitterly, stammering out Oaths through Drunkenness, and then crying out, *God save King Charles, he will hang all the Quakers and Anabaptists*: These Persons went unreprieved: But if any sober Men came to discourse with him, the Mayor had ordered *they should not be suffered*; and the Goaler's Servant would throw Water upon, or otherwise abuse them. The Mayor and other Magistrates busied themselves so much about this *innocent Man*, that they sent up such an Information to the Parliament, as produced the following Order of the House of Commons, viz.

ESSEX.
1660.

Prosecution of
G. Fox jun.
and R. Grassingham.

" Monday, May 21st. 1660.

" **T**HE House being informed that two Quakers, that is to say, George Fox and Robert Grassingham, have lately made a Disturbance at Harwich, and that the said George Fox, who pretends to be a Preacher, did lately in his Preaching there, speak Words much reflecting on the Government and Ministry, to the near causing of a Mutiny, and is now committed by the Mayor and Magistrates there.

Order of the
House of
Commons.

" Ordered, that the said George Fox and Robert Grassingham be forthwith brought up in Custody, and that the Sheriff of the County of Essex do receive them, and give his Assistance for the conveying them up accordingly, and delivering them into the Charge of the Serjeant at Arms attending this House.

" Ordered, that the Thanks of this House be given to the Mayor and Magistrates of Harwich for their Care in this Business.

" WILLIAM JESSOP,

" Clerk of the Common's House in Parliament."

The Complaint against Grassingham seemed to arise from the Prejudice of the Mayor, who had before said to him in the Hearing of several People, *If I could get you out of Town, I could easily deal with the rest of the Quakers.*

The foregoing Order was brought to Harwich by the Sheriff of Essex, several armed Men attending him; upon which George Fox was taken out of the * Hole where he had lain ten Nights, and delivered up to them to conduct to London. On the Road thither they met Robert Grassingham going homeward, with an Order from the Commissioners of the Navy to visit one of the King's Frigates then in Harwich Port; notwithstanding which, the Sheriff took him back to London, and delivered them both into the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms, who committed them the same Night to Lambeth-House, with an Order, that few of their Friends should come at them, and if any did, that Persons

G. Fox and
J. Grassingham delivered
to the Custody
of the Serjeant
at Arms.

* A Place not four Yards in Length, and less in Breadth.

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should be present to hear what they said, and that all Letters to or from them should be read before Delivery; which was strictly observed for some Time. They were close confined to their Chamber above six Weeks, from whence they sent the following Letter, viz.

Their Letter
to the Speaker.

" To the Speaker of the House of Commons :

" Friend,

" WE desire thee to communicate this enclosed to the House of Commons, it being a few innocent, just, and reasonable Words to them, though not in the eloquent Language of Man's Wisdom, yet it is in the Truth which is honourable. We are Friends to Righteousness and Truth, and to all that are found therein.

" Robert Grassingham.

" George Fox."

Enclosed was their Case, directed

" For the House of Commons assembled in Parliament at
" Westminster, viz.

Their Case
inclosed.

" Friends,

" BY your Order touching us, dated the 21st of the Third Month called May, we understand you have been falsely informed concerning us, by some who have falsely accused us. Therefore this is our just and reasonable Request, that we, together with our Accusers, may Face to Face be brought before you, and if any Thing can be justly proved against us, worthy of Death or Bonds, we shall not refuse either. But if there can be nothing justly proved against us, then ought our Accusers to be ashamed, and we to be acquitted.

" Now we do believe it to be unjust and unreasonable, that a Man should be haled out of a peaceable Meeting, as one of us was at Harwich in Essex, and sent to Prison without being examined, or a *Mittimus*, (only for declaring against the Cursing and Wickedness of the rude People, and against such as suffer such Ungodliness, and do not seek to suppress it) and there be kept ten Nights, and from thence to be transported unto this Place, and that we should be here confined to our Chamber, as we have been for about three Weeks last past, seeing nothing is proved against us, nor we yet brought to an Examination, neither did your Order express any such Confinement. So these Things are laid before you in Plainness, that Justice may be herein done by you.

" By us who are Sufferers for Righteousness-sake, and we have and
" shall have Peace in our Suffering, and in writing our selves
" thus, except we were convinced by the Law of God, or
" any just Law of our Nation to the contrary.

Lambeth-House the 15th of the
Fourth Month called June 1660.

" G. Fox the Younger.

" R. Grassingham."

Their Case
printed.

The Speaker not answering their Request, they published their said Case in Print, and got it delivered to the Members of Parliament; but no Notice was taken of it, because it was not drawn in the usual Form, and inscribed, *To the Right Honourable, &c.* a Title which the Prisoners conscientiously scrupled to use. After they had been fourteen Weeks in Custody without any Examination, upon a Motion made by a Member of the House, the following Order was issued,

" Thursday,

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"Thursday, the 20th of August 1660.

"ORDERED, that George Fox and Robert Grassingham, who, by Virtue of a former Order of this House, were taken into Custody by the Serjeant at Arms attending this House, for some Disturbances at Harwich, be forthwith released and set at Liberty, upon Bail first given to render themselves, when they shall be in that Behalf required."

Order for their Release.

"WILLIAM JESSOP,

"Clerk of the Common's House in Parliament."

Nevertheless they were still detained for the Serjeant's Fees, who demanded 50 l. beside 10 s. a Week for their Chamber Rent, though they were put in the highest Room of a lofty Tower, not fit to lodge in, till they had the Windows repaired at their own Charge. They not complying with these unreasonable Demands, the Day before the Parliament rose, (notwithstanding an Act of Oblivion and Indemnity which had passed that Sessions, and their own Order aforesaid) they made another Order, viz. "That it should be referred to the King's Privy Council to consider of them, and to give such Order touching them, as to their Liberty, or to continue under Restraint, as they should find consistent with the publick Peace, and in the mean Time to remain in the Serjeant's Custody." By this Order they were detained a considerable Time longer; all this unnecessary Bustle having been made about two plain, honest, and harmless Men, to their very great Loss and Hardship, for no other Offence, than that one of them had exhorted the People to Truth and Righteousness, and exclaimed against the Abominations of the Times, and the other had countenanced him in so doing.

Detained for Fees.

Another Order of the House.

In December this Year, John Furlly of Colchester had the Oath of Allegiance tendred him by John Shaw Recorder, and refusing it was sent to Prison, but after five Days discharged till the Sessions, where the same being again tendred him and refused, he was remanded to Prison, and kept there ten Weeks.

Oath tendred to J. Furlly.

On the 13th of the Month called January, John Harvey, George Court, John Webb, Samuel Peachy, Samuel Read, John Claydon, John Day, Jacob Baker, Walter Crane, John Simon, John Churchman, Robert Churchman, George Churchman, Thomas Amy, Edmund Clark, Thomas Day, John Stinton, John Ellis, and Michael Pettitt, were taken out of a Meeting at Hadstock, and carried to Saffron Walden, and thence to a Justice of the Peace at Dunmow, who tendred them the Oath, and on their refusing to Swear, sent them to the Sessions at Chelmsford, where the Oath was again tendred them, and for refusing to take it they were sent to Colchester Castle, where they remained a considerable Time.

19 Committed to Prison.

On the 20th of the same Month, John Inghill, Joseph Burnish, Edward Grant jun. Nicholas Prigg, Edwin Harrison, Richard Quick, Thomas Bayles, John Crumplin, George Wetherly, John Partridge, John Havens, Zachary Welch, John Desbrow, Thomas Mosse, Michael Thorn, John Crouch, Thomas Shortland, Nathanael Plumsted, John Bishop, William Quick, Zachary Catchpool, and Thomas Burgis, were taken out of a Meeting at Colchester, and by the Recorder and other Justices committed to Prison for refusing to take the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, and detained there nine Weeks.

22 More sent to Prison.

On the same Day William Williams, Peter Peachy, and Thomas Brewer, taken out of a Meeting at East-ham, were sent to Colchester Castle for refusing the Oaths. Also Joseph Smith, William Bridge, John Harding, George French, John Knowles, Griffith Perry, Thomas Ellis, Thomas Sewell, William Sewell, William Adcock, John Turner, and Josiah Clark, were taken out of a Meeting at Thaxted by the Mayor's Order, and had to the Sessions, whence for refusing the Oath they were sent to Prison, where they lay above three Months.

Sundry others imprisoned.

On the 27th, Edwin Morrell, John Potter, Thomas Eve, John Clark, Richard Sewell, and Thomas Eltham, being at a Meeting in the same Town, were summoned

More Imprisonments.

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1660.

An Occurrence
worthy of No-
tice.

Others commit-
ted for refus-
ing the Oaths.

Case of A.
Smith.

Imprisonment
of S. Crisp
and others.

Divers taken
at a Meeting
in Baddow.

Tithes.

Suffering of
R. Levitt and
others.

moned to appear before the Mayor next Day, who tendred them the Oath, and for refusing it sent them to Prison, where they lay eleven Weeks. On the same Day *John Salmon, William Hudson, Thomas Lea, John Raven, and John Davidge*, taken in a Meeting at *Steeple*, were carried from Place to Place, and at length to some Justices at *Colchester*, who tendred them the Oaths, and sent them to Prison: At the Time when they were apprehended, some of those who took them charged *Thomas Lea* with being a Preacher, and called for a Bible to hear whether he could read: He opening the Book, without Design, at 2 Chron. xx. 11, 12. read to them the Text, viz. *Behold, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy Possession, which thou hast given us to inherit? O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no Might against this great Company that cometh against us, neither know we what to do, but our Eyes are upon thee.* A Text very suitable to the Occasion, and it was remarkable, that it occurred so seasonably without looking for; but whether that happened casually or providentially, we presume not to determine.

In the same Month *Griffith Perry*, and his Son of the same Name, were taken out of a Meeting at the House of *Edwin Morrell*, and committed to Prison by an Order of Sessions for refusing the Oaths: Also *Daniel Deacon* of *Colchester*, taken from a Meeting there, was for the same Cause sent to Goal, and continued there above ten Weeks. At *Harwich* about the same Time, *William Palmer, John Vandewall* and *Edward Boyce*, were taken from their own Houses, and, for refusing to take the Oaths, were by the Mayor and another Justice sent to Prison. At *Tolbury*, *John Rolfe* speaking to the People by way of Exhortation, in the Grave-Yard, was carried before a Justice of the Peace, who tendred him the Oaths, and for refusing them, sent him to *Colchester Castle*.

About this Time *Andrew Smith*, for refusing to pay Tithes, was imprisoned in *Colchester Castle* seven Months, and after that in the Fleet above four Months, and had his Goods taken away to the Value of 26*l*. There were also Prisoners for Tithes in the same Castle, *Francis Marriage, John Chopping, Thomas Ames, Thomas Chapman, and William Fretton*.

ANNO 1661. *Stephen Crisp* was apprehended at a Meeting at *Harwich*, and by a Justice of the Peace there, who had ordered his *Mittimus* to be written before his Examination, committed to Prison. On the next Day were committed for having been at the same Meeting, *William Marloe, Edward Boyce, and Mary Vandewall*, who after three Weeks were brought to the Sessions, where a Bill of Indictment was preferred against them, but the Grand Jury refusing to find it, the Oath of Allegiance was tendred them, and they were sent back to Prison. During their Confinement, several who came to visit them, were by the Justice's Order detained there, viz. *Joseph Burrrough, John Hawes, William Ellis, Jonathan Goddard, Thomas Garford, and William Skinner*.

In the same Year *Robert Conyers, William Fretton, Robert Davidge, Robert Godfrey, Thomas Leage, and John Davidge*, were taken at a Meeting at the House of *Thomas Fretton* in or near *Great-Baddow*, and by the Justices sent to *Colchester Castle*, with a *Mittimus* expressing, that they were met together and exercised in Preaching, and other spiritual Duties.

In this Year also *Thomas Fretton* was again imprisoned at *Colchester* for not paying Tithes. And the Widow *Balls* of *Horsley*, for 9*s*. 10*d*. demanded for Tithes, suffered the Loss of five Cows worth 20*l*.

ANNO 1662. *Robert Levitt* of *Stebbing*, having had Judgment passed against him for Tithes on the Statute of treble Damages, was committed to Prison, and while there was sued in the County Court, and had his Corn taken away to the Value of 50*l*. notwithstanding which he remained a Prisoner about three Years. In this Year also *John Adams* of *Hadstock, George Bacon, Griffith Perry, John Cakebread* of *Old-Samford, John Crosier* and *Samuel Skillingham*, both of *Felsted, Thomas Fraling, Thomas Brand, and Edmund Raven*, were imprisoned for Contempts upon Prosecutions in the *Exchequer* for Tithes. In the same Year *George Barnard* of *Finchingsfield*, for two Years Tithe

Tithe of a Farm of 50*l.* per Annum, had Goods taken from him which were sold for 40*l.* Also *Josiah Smith* of *Little-Samford*, the Rent of whose Farm was 78*l.* per Annum, had taken from him Barley, Wheat, and Cows, to the Value of 66*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*

ESSEX.
1662.

ANNO 1663. Excessive were the Seizures made in this Year for Tithes: *George Barnard* had Goods taken from him worth 30*l.* *Josiah Smith* Barley, Wheat, and Oats, sold for 42*l.* 10*s.* *Robert Leviitt* to the Value of 20*l.* And *Thomas Cole* of *Lexden*, for an original Demand of 20*s.* sustained the Loss of eleven Cows and a Bull worth 50*l.* In the same Year *John Raven* was sent to Prison for refusing to answer upon Oath to a Bill exhibited against him for Tithes.

Excessive
Seizures.

Imprisonment
of J. Raven.

In this Year was a grievous Persecution of this People for their religious Meetings at *Colchester*, where *William Moore*, then Mayor, exerted the utmost of his Authority to oppress them.

Grievous Per-
secution at
Colchester.

On the 25th of *October* he came and forcibly broke up the Meeting, sending *Stephen Crisp* and *John Pike* to Prison. On the 28th of the same he came again, and having dispersed the Meeting, he committed *Thomas Brown* and *Thomas Gainford*. And on the 1st of *November* he sent Prisoners also to the *Mootball*, *Thomas Bayles* and *George Weiberly*. This Method proving ineffectual, a Party of the County Troops were employed to go to the Meeting, where they beat some, and carried others to Prison, having first broke the Forms, Seats, and Windows of the Meeting-house. After this, being kept out of their Meeting-house, they assembled in the Street, sometimes in the Cold and Rain, not daring to decline their Duty for those Inconveniencies: Thus they continued constantly meeting twice a Week, on the First and Fourth-days of the Week, at their appointed Hour, till the 6th of *December*, when a Troop of Horse, who came to Town the Day before, armed with Swords, Pistols, and Carbines, rode in furiously among them, crying out, *What a Devil do you here?* Some with their drawn Swords, and others with their Carbines, laying on without Mercy, both on Old and Young, Men and Women, beat and bruised many exceedingly, chasing them to and fro in the Streets, after which they broke into several Houses to the Terror of the People. There were also taken by the Troopers and committed to Prison, *John Havens*, *Henry Havens*, *Benjamin Hall*, *William Quick*, *John Shaft*, and *Thomas Brunton*. And about the same Time, *William Havens*, *Thomas Cole*, *Robert Dednam*, and *Nathanael Gibson*, were committed to Goal by the Mayor.

Many bruised.

On the 13th of *December* the Troopers came again, having added to their former Weapons great Clubs, one of which was above four Inches round: With these they knockt down many in the Streets, where some lay as dead, and many were so disabled and bruised, that they could not get off their Clothes, nor feed themselves for several Days after. Remarkable was the Patience and Meekness of one of the Sufferers at this Time, who, when a Trooper was beating him with his Sword, and the Blade fell out of the Hilt, took it up, and gave it him again, saying, *I will give it thee up again: I desire the Lord may not lay this Day's Work to thy Charge.* After they had dispersed the Meeting, four of the Troopers met a poor sickly Man about a Quarter of a Mile from the Meeting-place, and riding up to him, asked him whether he was a Quaker? He not denying it, they beat him so, that the Spectators thought he would have died on the Place, and he had probably been killed, but that he was taken into an House; howbeit he was disabled from getting his Bread, or providing for his Family a long Time after.

Many knockt
down in the
Streets.

A poor sickly
Man almost
kill'd.

On the 16th, the Fourth of the Week, some of the Troopers came early to the Meeting, and grievously abused those few that were met, pursuing them on foot into the Houses and Yards.

On the 27th of *December* thirty eight Troopers came riding among the Friends, who were met in the Street, most desperately, and so cruelly beat them with Clubs and Carbines as moved Compassion and Tears in the Standers by. As the Soldiers forced some away by Violence, they drove them upon others

Barbarous
Beatings.

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1663.

Furious At-
tack of the
Soldiers.

An Instance of
conjugal Af-
fection.
Death of
E. Grant.

G. Barnadif-
ton.

Iron Spikes in
the Soldiers
Clubs.

The Troopers
wearied.

Passages
guarded.

Fined for
Meeting.

Fines repeat-
ed.

others of their Comrades, whom they had placed as Centinels in the Passages, who with Clubs beat them afresh, till the Flesh of some of them was become like a Jelly, their Blood for the present stagnated, and their Limbs deprived of Use, which barbarous Treatment was attended with dreadful Oaths, and horrid Imprecations, to the Grief of the Souls of those whose Bodies had been thus inhumanly used.

On the 3d of the Month called *January*, about sixty of the Friends being met at the usual Place, the Soldiers, some on Foot, and some on Horseback, fell furiously upon them, as if they would have slain them all, with Clubs and Carbines knocking down several, and amongst others an old Man, whom they beat so unmercifully, that some of their Abettors persuaded them to desist, for they had so beaten him that he was unable to go Home without Help. Another, aged sixty five, was followed a great Way by one on Horseback, and three on foot, who beat and abused him so, that it was very much questioned whether one of his Arms would ever recover its Use. *Solomon Fromantle* a Merchant, was so grievously abused and beaten, that he lost much Blood, and yet the barbarous Troopers did not desist: His Wife, fearing lest he should be killed, fell down upon him to cover and protect him from their Blows, many of which she received on her own Body. *Edward Grant*, Father of *Fromantle's* Wife, about seventy Years of Age, was knockt down, and survived the fatal Stroke but a few Days. Among these Sufferers was also *Giles Barnadiston*, a Man of Note, brought up in Learning at one of the Universities, and who had been formerly a Colonel. He, convinced of the Truth as held by this People, willingly bore his Part of this Storm of Persecution, in the hottest of which he constantly attended religious Meetings, and undauntedly hazarded his Life for his Testimony.

On the 6th of the same Month the Soldiers had put into their Clubs Iron Spikes, sharpened with a File, with which they hurt many, particularly an ancient Woman of good Repute, whom they wounded in twelve several Places, some of the Soldiers being so cruelly wanton, that they made Sport of running those Iron Spikes into Peoples Bodies, scoffing and jeering them when they started or flinched at the Pain.

After this the Troopers, finding the Constancy of the Sufferers invincible, generally began to relent, and abate of their former Violence, so that they inclined to commiserate those whom they could not conquer, and grew ashamed of fighting against those whom no Abuses could provoke to resist them: So that there was a Calm or Repose for two or three Weeks, till the Mayor and Recorder, displeased at their Backwardness, pusht them on again to act against their Wills; so that on the 24th of the Month called *January*, about twenty of them on Horseback went to the Meeting-place with Trumpets sounding, and pusht the Friends away, but with less Violence than formerly.

On the 27th of the same Month they endeavoured to prevent their Meeting, by guarding the Passages thither, stopping and forcing back such as they saw coming.

On the 31st the Soldiers took Possession of the Ground before the usual Time of Meeting, and so kept them from assembling that Day.

On the 7th of the Month called *February*, the Soldiers came as usual, and carried about sixteen of the Persons assembled to their Head-Quarters at the *White-Hart*, whither the Mayor and Recorder came after Sermon, and fined them 12 d. each for being absent that Day from *Divine Service*, as they call'd it, making a meer Jest and Sport of their own Proceedings, telling one, *they would have her Scarf*, another, *her Petticoat*, &c.

On the 14th of the same Month the Troopers came early, and took the Friends as they came, one or two at a Time, whom the Mayor sent to Prison for being at an unlawful Assembly, although there was none that Day, there being not five of them together, except the Troopers, which the Mayor recollecting, fined them 12 d. each for not hearing *Divine Service*, and ordered them to be kept in Prison till they paid it: But in that also he acted extrajudicially, which

which the more knowing Magistrates perceiving, procured the Discharge of the Prisoners after eight or ten Days.

On the 21st they took the Friends, five or six at a Time, as they came to the Meeting, and the Mayor sent some to Prison, and threatened others.

On the 28th the Friends met together in one of their Grave-Yards, whence the Soldiers drove them out without much Hurt. But the gentle Behaviour of the Soldiers at this Time was owing to their own Humanity, and not to any Restraint put upon them by either the Mayor or other of the Magistrates.

ANNO 1664. At Colchester the Violence of Persecution, though much abated, was not yet wholly ceased, for on the 10th of the Month called April, the Soldiers came to the Meeting-place with Trumpets sounding, and took away about twenty Persons to the *White-Hart*, of whom four were sent to Prison.

At the Quarter Sessions on the 22d of the same Month, thirteen of those who had been in Prison were indicted for being at an unlawful Assembly, and recommitted. One other, who had been taken in the Street by himself, was acquitted, after he had been wrongfully imprisoned twenty three Weeks. But notwithstanding his Innocence, the Goaler yet detained him for an unreasonable Demand of Fees.

On the 1st of the Month called May, the Soldiers took eight Men, and carried them to the *White-Hart*, where they were separately examined before the Mayor, and upon the Soldiers Evidence committed to Prison, with a strict Charge to the Goaler not to give any of them Liberty, on Pain of losing his Place.

Leaving Colchester let us turn to *Halsted*, where were about two Hundred Soldiers commanded by Captain *Turner*, who on the 13th of the Month called March 1664, set a Guard in the Way to the Meeting-place, and stopped all they supposed to be *Quakers*, and carried them to the Market-house, where they kept them about an Hour: Being dismissed they went directly to the Meeting-house, and there sat together in Silence: About an Hour after Captain *Turner*, with other Officers and Soldiers, came down, and set a Guard of Musquetiers at the Door; then the Captain went in and demanded twice, *Where is your Preacher?* No Answer being given, he said no more but, *Ye Rogues, get ye out*, and instantly fell to striking violently on Old and Young, Men and Women, without Distinction: In like manner did the rest of the Officers, and as they drove them out, the Guard of Musquetiers struck them again with their Musquets, so that most of them were sorely bruised, and the Blood of several ran down. After that the Soldiers brake in pieces the Walls and Windows of the House, carried away the Doors, pulled down the Chimneys, and the main Dorman of the House, so that the Floor of the Chamber fell in. Then they gave away, carried off, and sold what they pleased. The Damage done to the House was computed to be more than 25*l*. The Names of some who were present, and suffered by these Abuses, were *Thomas Isaac*, *Edmund Pryor*, *James Allen*, *Richard Bunting*, *Daniel Pryor*, *William Bunting*, *Richard Norden*, *Edmund Manly*, *William Bappon*, and *William Swan*.

In the same Year *Edward Morrell*, *Joseph Smith*, *John Clark*, *William Bridge*, *Margaret Clark*, *Thomas Archer*, *John Wood*, and *Robert Beard*, were imprisoned by Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*, obtained after Process against them in the Ecclesiastical Courts for being absent from the established Worship.

In this Year also *John Woodward*, *Mary Cotton*, *John Empson*, *John Cakebread*, and *Thomas Chiswell*, were severally committed to Prison for refusing to pay Tithes. There was also taken by Distress

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>John Chopping</i> for	11	10	0	Demand, Corn worth	27	2	0
<i>William Fritton</i>	1	19	0	A Cow worth	5	0	0
<i>Thomas Fritton</i>	4	0	0	Six Cows worth	36	0	0
For Demands of	17	9	0	were taken to the Value of	68	2	0

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1663.

Persecution at
Colchester
abated.

Persecution
at Halsted.

Imprisonments
by Writs de
Excom. Cap.
and for
Tithes.

Distresses for
Tithes.

ESSEX.
1664.

From *Thomas Cole* of *Lexden*, nine Cows worth 30*l.* were taken by Distress for Tithes: From *Robert Levitt*, three Cows and Corn worth 16*l.* And from *Josiah Smith*, Corn to the Value of 36*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* The same *Josiah Smith*, for not sending a Man to serve in the *Militia*, was by the Deputy Lieutenants of the County fined 5*l.* for which they took from him an Horse worth 6*l.* In this Year also *Thurston Read* was imprisoned in the *Moothall*, by *William Moore* Mayor of *Colchester*, for teaching School without License, and continued there till he died.

Prosecution of
J. Smith.

ANNO 1665. The aforesaid *Josiah Smith* was again fined 5*l.* for not serving among the *Militia*, and had an Horse taken from him worth 12*l.* which Horse the Officer who made the Distress kept for his own riding. Besides this, the Deputy Lieutenants, *Alibam* and *Lumley*, with one Major *Turner*, and about ten armed Horsemen, entered the said *Josiah's* House in his Absence, under Pretence of searching for Arms, and carried away a Fowling-piece worth 30*s.* On his coming Home he was taken by three of the Horsemen, left behind for that Purpose, and detained Prisoner by Major *Turner*, who for some Time would not let him have a Bed to lie on. This Usage, as they told him, was for being a Friend to the *Quakers*.

Fines and
Imprisonment
for Meeting.

On the 2d of the Month called *August* this Year, *Thomas Salthouse*, *Thomas Toakley*, *William Williams*, *Edmund Bolt*, and *Samuel Hicks*, were fined 5*l.* for being at a Meeting in *East-Ham*, and for Non-payment were committed to the House of Correction at *Barking* for two Months.

Tithes.

ANNO 1666. On the 24th of the Month called *April*, *Jonathan Bundock* was committed to Prison, at the Suit of *William Collingwood*, for Tithes.

Exchequer
Process.

ANNO 1667. On the 1st of the Month called *April* this Year, *William Woolsey* was committed to Prison on an *Exchequer* Process for Tithes. And in the next Month *Mary Barker*, *William Boggas*, and *Richard Emerton*, were sent to Goal for the same Cause; as was also *Stephen Holman* on the 14th of the Month called *July*.

Severe
Seizure.

Grievous was the Distress made this Year on *Thomas Cole* of *Lexden*, who for two Year's Tithe valued at 40*s.* had taken from him at the Suit of *John Smith* Priest of *Mary's* Parish in *Colchester*, eleven Seam and three Bushels of Wheat, eighteen Seam of Barley, and 25 Seam of Oats, in all worth 54*l.*

Imprison-
ments.

In the same Year *Samuel Thornton*, *John Swinton*, *John Furly*, *Edward Mellop*, *James Parke*, *George Taylor*, *Daniel Vandewall*, *John Goodwin*, and others, were committed to Prison by Order of *Thomas Garrard* Mayor of *Harwich*, for assembling together at a religious Meeting in that Town.

Trained Bands.

John Furly the younger, and *George Wetherly*, both of *Colchester*, were fined for refusing to furnish Soldiers for the Trained-Bands: The former of them suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 18*l.* and the latter of 2*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

Execution for
Tithes.

Some Time before this *Josiah Smith* of *Little-Samford*, having been sued for Tithes on the Statute for treble Damages, had taken from him by an Execution eighteen Cows, three Horses, a Waggon, fourteen Seams of Barley, nine Seams of Wheat, twenty one Seams of Malt, and other Things to the Value of 140*l.* So that within the Space of about five Years the Distresses made upon his Goods for Tithes, amounted to 400*l.* being more than the whole Rent of his Farm for that Time, which was but 78*l.* per Annum.

Grievous Spoil
of T. Cole's
Goods.

ANNO 1668. *Thomas Cole*, prosecuted at the Suit of *John Nettles* Priest of *Lexden*, for two Years Tithe valued at 10*l.* had taken from him by an Execution, two Horses, one Mare, ten Cows and Bullocks, forty four Sheep, twenty Lambs, and five Seam of Wheat, in all to the Value of 64*l.* At the Time of this Seizure the Priest stood by, encouraging the Bayliff against the Sufferer, by calling out *Disable him, disable him*: By which he discovered his own persecuting Disposition, and the Bent of his Inclination to ruin his Neighbour.

Treble
Damages.

ANNO 1669. *Thomas Fritton* was prosecuted at the Suit of *Robert Sturrel* Priest of *Much Stambridge*, on the Statute for treble Damages, and had taken from

from him for Tithe of 16*l.* Value, sixteen Cows and a Bull worth 56*l.* which the Officer sold for 40*l.* and threatned to come again for more.

ESSEX.
1669.

Robert Levett was prosecuted for Tithe in the County Court, at the Suit of John Sorrel jun. an Impropiator, and had taken from him in this and the next succeeding Year, Goods worth 23*l.*

Tithes.

ANNO 1670. On the 5th of the Month called June, Henry Wroth Justice, being informed of a Meeting at Waltham-Abbey, went thither with some Attendants. He caused the Names of several present to be taken, and granted his Warrant, by which were taken the same Day from Thomas Bennett, Cloth worth 70*l.* which the Officers laid up in the Vestry-Room of the Steeple-house. And at the same Time they also took Goods from Edward Tomson, Josias Levett, Mary Bennet Widow, and Richard Priden.

Distresses for
a Meeting at
Waltham-
Abbey,

For Meetings at Harwich were taken

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
From Daniel Vandewall Goods worth	25	3	6	and for Meet- ings at Har- wich.
John Vandewall	4	0	0	
* William Bramham	7	19	6	
Mary Vandewall, Edward Boyse, Hester Matthews,	2	6	7	
and William Mark				
William Marlow	5	13	0	
Hannah Mace	2	1	4	
George Taylor	1	0	0	
	48	3	11	

For Meetings at the House of John Churchman in Wendon, were taken

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
From the said John Churchman at several Times, Goods worth	13	6	6	and at Wen- don, &c.
Matthew Day of Newport	23	5	0	
Anthony Pennystone	8	12	0	
	45	3	6	

For Meetings at Chiswell were taken

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
From Samuel Reader Goods worth	4	6	7	
William Winter, James Pettitt, William Pinner, and	3	5	6	
Thomas Cornwell				
	7	12	1	

For Meetings at or near Thaxted were taken

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
From Joseph Smith, at four several Times, Goods worth	50	17	9	
Edwin Morrell at several Times	51	10	0	
Thomas Nottay Timber worth	21	5	0	
William Bridge, Susan Hayward, Rebecca Saward,	9	8	10	
Thomas Ellis, and Rebecca Fann, Goods worth				
Thomas Jarvis, William Osborn, and Thomas Johnson	6	16	0	
John Claydon of Hadstock	26	7	10	
Bridget Bingham, Mary Woodward, and Thomas Miller,	2	1	6	
	168	6	11	

For

* William Bramham had not a Bed left him, nor was he worth so much more as was thus taken away.

ESSEX.
1670.

For Meetings at Coggeshall,
 Taken also from Robert Ludgater sen. Robert Ludgater jun.
 Widow Guyon, and Robert Clark,
 Goods worth
 Widow Mootbam, John Guyon, William
 Sewel, and John Garrett
 John Clark, Nathanael Sparrow, and
 Robert Adams
 Robert Evans, John Gage, and Cornelius Curtis
 Edward Mines and Richard Pemberton

45 3 0

Sentence of
Premunire.
past upon R.
Richardson.Officers of
Coggeshall
fined.Poor Man's
Clothes taken
away.
Meeting-
houses shut
up.Release of
Prisoners.What happened
to some noted
Informers.

At the Quarter Sessions at Chelmsford, on the 1st of the Month called July, Richard Richardson and Christopher Taylor, having been bound to appear there for teaching School without License, appeared accordingly: But the Justices not finding sufficient Cause to proceed against them on the Matter they were charged with, tendred to Richard Richardson the Oath of Allegiance, and committed him to Prison for refusing to take it: At the next Affizes he had Sentence of Premunire past upon him, and was continued in Prison about two Years and a Quarter, where he suffered much through Extremity of Cold and cruel Usage, being often shut up among the Felons.

About this Time Hunwick and Maxie, two Informers, eager of their Prey, and finding the Officers at Coggeshall not so forward to distrain Mens Goods as they were to inform against them, made their Complaint to the Justices, and caused a Churchwarden, two Constables, and four Overseers, to be fined 5l. each for Neglect of what was called their Duty. These Informers were so rapacious, that meeting Robert Clark a poor Man, after a Meeting in the Street, they stript his Coat from off his Back, and carried it off. The like they did also to Nathanael Gage. The Meetings in that Town were for a considerable Time held in the Street, the Officers having excluded them from the Use of their Meeting-house by nailing up the Doors.

ANNO 1672. In this Year were discharged out of the Common Goal for this County, Richard Richardson, Edwin Morrell, Joseph Smith, John Clark, Margaret Clark, William Bridge, Thomas Archer, and Nathanael Plumsted, by Virtue of a general Amnesty then granted to this People by King Charles the Second under the Great-Seal of England.

We think proper here to insert some Remarks which were made by observing Persons concerning some noted Informers, and others who had signalized themselves by their eager Prosecutions and ill Usage of this People, viz.

John Cullington a Fisherman of Harwich, and a noted Informer against Meetings there, was found drowned, whether by Accident, or through Despair is uncertain, but the latter not improbable, for he had express'd himself to be under a grievous Trouble and Concern of Mind for what he had done. His dead Body was cast on shore at a common Landing-place near the Sea-side.

Randal Poole a Taylor of the same Town, a Man who had been in good Credit, took up the Business of an Informer, to follow which he neglected the Care of his lawful Vocation. After which he habituated himself also to Gaming and Drinking, striving by that Means to stifle the Checks of Conscience, which nevertheless grew so strong that he was constrained to acknowledge, that he was so troubled in Mind, that he was afraid he should be distracted. This Trouble produced Repentance, so that he afterward desisted, and lived quietly.

John Hunwicks, an Informer of Braintree, had been a Shopkeeper of good Reputation there, but seeking to enrich himself by the Spoil of his Neighbours, he proceeded with much Uneasiness. At length, when on his Death-bed, he sent for Solomon Skinner, and others whom he had prosecuted, intreating them

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to forgive him, and to pray to God for him, telling them he was so troubled in Conscience, that he could not die in Peace. ESSEX. 1672.

A certain Soldier, who had been an Informer, when taken sick, declared, that he was never quiet in his Mind since he had meddled with the Quakers, and that he would never do it again.

The Goaler's Wife, who had been instrumental in many Injuries, Affronts, and Abuses to Richard Richardson, and others of this People in Prison at Chelmsford, in her last Sickness was under much Remorse of Conscience when she reflected on her Cruelty toward them, often crying out, O you Men! O you Men. And under much Trouble on their Account she died. So remarkable was the Patience and Meekness with which those Sufferers, for the Cause of Religion, endured the Abuses, Revilings, and Contradictions of Sinners, that it sensibly affected the Consciences of their Opposers, by the convincing Evidence it carried with it of their Innocence and Integrity. Death of the Goaler's Wife. Meekness of the Sufferers.

ANNO 1673. James Potter of Marks-Tay, for a Demand of 6l. for Tithes, had taken from him at the Suit of Peter Olger an Impropiator, five Cows and three other Kine, valued at 22l. 10s. and the Bayliff judging that insufficient, came again and took another Cow worth 3l. 10s. Distress for Tithes.

ANNO 1674. John Shackerly, Thomas Tyler, Edward Tomson, Christopher Taylor, and Thomas Bennet, were indicted at the Sessions for Absence from the National Worship, by the Procurement of Edward Claydon an Informer: And for the same Cause Josias Levett and Richard Pridden were indicted at the Assizes. Indictments at Sessions and Assizes.

ANNO 1675. Taken for Meetings at Saffron-Walden,

	l.	s.	d.	
From Anthony Pennystone, Goods worth	8	5	8	Distresses for Meetings.
Samuel Reader and William Pinnerfon	13	12	0	
Thomas Cornall, James Pettitt, and John Pettitt	7	15	0	
At PEDMARSH,				
From Katharine Stow, for a Meeting at her House	26	12	0	
At SOUTHMINSTER,				
From Henry Haslebam, for a Meeting at his House	28	5	4	
John Reynolds, Edmund Sewel, and John Woodward	16	15	0	
William Freeton of Mundon, an Horse worth	10	0	0	
At ROYDEN,				
From John Page and Henry Feast, three Cows worth	14	0	0	
	125	5	0	

ANNO 1677. Taken for a Meeting at Dedham,

From Samuel Groom, at whose House it was held, Goods worth	13	3	6
Job Spurgeon, Robert Mixer, and Splendine Rand	2	11	0
Abraham Vangover and Samuel Warner	1	1	0
	16	15	6

ANNO 1678. Thomas March was prosecuted in the Exchequer by William Secker a Priest at Leigh, for eight Years Tithe of a Farm of 26l. per Annum. The Priest obtained a Decree for 53l. 13s. 4d. being double the Value of the Tithes, and 15l. 10s. 10d. Costs of Suit, for which his Goods were taken away to the Value of 100l. He also suffered about two Years Imprisonment at the Suit of the same Priest. Exchequer Procefs.

On the 9th of the Month called April this Year, the following Persons were Prisoners in Chelmsford Goal for Tithes, viz.

Edmund Raven of Cressing, at the Suit of Richard Cooke.
John Marshall of Finchfield, at the Suit of Samuel Bishop Priest.
Michael Pettitt of Wimbish, at the Suit of Edward Haward Priest.
Edward George of Thaxted, at the Suit of Robert Raynard Priest.
William Osbeston, John Harding, and John Barnard of Alfastone.

List of Prisoners at Chelmsford.

ESSEX.
1678.

Israel Roberts of *Belsham*, at the Suit of *Robert Poole* Priest, for three Years Tithe of a small Farm of but 11 *l.* per Annum; though during his Imprisonment the Priest Yearly took Corn off his Ground for Tithes.

Josiah Smith of *Horsley*, at the Suit of Priest *Tillyers*.

Thomas Cragg of *Belsham-Pauls*, at the Suit of *John Thomas* Priest.

William Palmer of *Gestlinthorp*, at the Suit of *John Godwin* Priest.

John Battell of *Rabhes*, at the Suit of *Isaac Read* Priest.

At the same Time also were Prisoners there, *Katharine Stow* the Elder, and *Katharine Stow* the Younger, at the Suit of *William Tressel* Priest of *Pedmarsh*, for a Claim of 2 *d.* each for *Easter-Offerings*, for which they had then suffered two Years and two Months Imprisonment, and were still continued.

Imprisonments
on Process
Ecclesiastical,

Abraham Bell, and *Mary* his Sister, were prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for 9 *s.* 4 *d.* each, demanded for their Rate by the Churchwardens of *Felsted*, and upon a *Significavit* of Contumacy were committed to *Chelmsford* Goal, where they were closely confined.

and for
Absence from
the publick
Worship.

About the same Time also were imprisoned for Absence from the National Worship, *Thomas Bennet* and *Thomas Tyler* of *Waltham-Abbey*, who had lain there eight Months: *James Potter* of *Marks-Tay*, *John Raven* of *Feering*, and *Mary Cockerton* of *Kelvedon*. The said *Thomas Bennet* had also Two-thirds of his Estate seized by a Process in the *Exchequer*, on the Statute made against *Popish* Recusants.

In this Year also *Thomas Isaac* and *James Allen* of *Halsted*, were imprisoned at *Chelmsford*, at the Suit of *John Sewel*, for refusing to pay the usual Assessment toward the Repairing the Steeple-house there.

Imprisonments
by a Writ de
Excom. Cap.

ANNO 1679. On the 2d of the Month called *April*, *Zachariah Child*, *Abraham Bell*, and *Mary Bell* Widow, were imprisoned by a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, at the Suit of *William Surrey*, then Churchwarden of *Felsted*, for refusing to pay his Rate.

Distresses.

ANNO 1680. In this Year *Samuel Parmentor* of *Otten-Belsham*, and *Robert Poole* of *Paul's-Belsham*, suffered Distress of their Goods for absenting themselves from the publick Worship.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

ANNO 1681. About the Month called *January* this Year, *William Reynolds* of *Great-Chesterford*, was imprisoned in the County Goal for refusing to pay small Tithes, at the Suit of the Priest of *Strettell*.

Fines for
Meeting.

ANNO 1682. In the Beginning of the Month called *June* this Year, was a Meeting at *Flamsted-End*, for which Fines were imposed, and Distress of Goods made on *Thomas Taylor*, *Thomas Abraham*, *John Shackerly*, *Samuel Stanbridge*, *John Bush*, and *Thomas Bennet*, to the Amount of 9 *l.* 6 *s.* 3 *d.*

Oath tendred,

Refusers sent
to Prison.

On the 4th of *December* in the same Year, at *Saffron-Walden*, the Friends being kept out of their Meeting-house, held their Assembly in the Street, whither the Magistrates came, and tendred the Oath of Allegiance to *Robert Freak* and *Richard Mansfield* of *Ashden*, and *Thomas Trigg* of *Littlebury*, and for refusing to take it sent them to Prison. On the 18th of the same Month, being shut out and assembled as before, the Magistrates went and tendred the Oath to *Anthony Pennystone*, *Humphry Smith*, *Thomas Simons*, *Henry Starr*, *John Scotcher*, *John Allen*, *Samuel Taylor*, and *Thomas Waite*, and committed them also to Prison for refusing to take it: And at a Sessions about nine Months after they were fined 20 *l.* 16 *s.* 8 *d.* and Distresses made on the Goods of divers of them; but *Samuel Taylor* and *John Allen* not having whereon to make Distress, were recommitted to Prison for three Months longer.

Severe
Distresses.

In the Month called *January* this Year, *James Matthews* of *West-Ham*, for a Meeting in an House adjoining to his Dwelling, and for his Wife's Preaching there, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 104 *l.* 13 *s.* 3 *d.*

Distress for
Meeting at
Plaistow,

For a Meeting at *Plaistow*, and for *William Falkner's* Preaching there, Goods were taken by Distress from *George Brown* and *Robert Bailey* to the Value of 12 *l.* 15 *s.* 9 *d.*

and for
Absence from
the National
Worship.

In this Year also, *Roger Elcock* of *Much-Baddow*, and *Joseph Parmentor* and *Thomas Cragg*, both of *Paul's-Belsham*, suffered Distress of their Goods for being absent from the National Worship.

ANNO

ANNO 1683. *William Shepherd* of *Wickham*, for a Demand of eight Years Tithe, valued at 10s. per Annum, was prosecuted in the County Court, at the Suit of *Dr. Browning*, and suffered Distress of his Household Goods to the Value of 5l. 5s.

John Slaughter of *Upminster*, for a Demand of 39s. for Tithe, had a Cow and other Things taken away worth 11l.

Richard Reeve of *Colchester*, and *Josiah Smith*, were still continued Prisoners for Tithes. And on the 3d of the Month called *March* this Year, *Thomas Wiseman* was committed to Prison by an Attachment out of the *Exchequer*, at the Suit of *Samuel Croxal*, Priest of *Tolsunt-Knights*, for Tithes.

On the 22d of the Month called *July* this Year, *John Matthews* of *Harwich*, *Job Spurgeon* of *Dedham*, *Stephen Moore* and *Stephen Arnold* of *Lawford*, taken at a Meeting, were committed to *Chelmsford* Goal by Warrant from Justice *Smith*: They were after a few Weeks bailed out till Sessions: But on their Appearance there on the 3d of *October*, they were required to give Sureties for their good Behaviour, which refusing to do, they were recommitted to Prison, where three of them lay upon Straw about fifteen Weeks in the Midst of a Winter remarkable for Extremity of Cold, but the fourth, *Job Spurgeon*, being so weak that he was unable to lie down, sat up in a Chair the most Part of that Time.

About this Time several Distresses were made for Absence from the National Worship, by which were taken

	l.	s.	d.	
From <i>Samuel Parmentor</i> , <i>Israel Roberts</i> , <i>Robert Poole</i> , and <i>Thomas Miller</i> , Goods worth	3	10	0	}
<i>Robert Elcock</i> , <i>Joseph Parmentor</i> , <i>Thomas Cragg</i> , and <i>Thomas Mullar</i> , to the Value of	4	10	0	
	8	0	0	

ESSEX.
1683.

Prosecution in
the County
Court.
Tithes.
Prisoners for
Tithes.

Commitments
from a Meer-

Distresses.

Richard Pritman, *John Larking*, *Thomas Tyler*, *John Shackerly*, and *Thomas Bennett*, were convicted before Justice *Fox* of *Cheshunt* in *Hartfordshire*, for being at a Meeting at *Flamsted-End*, and by his Certificate of that Conviction, directed to Justice *Wroth* of *Layton* in *Essex*, a Warrant was issued to the Constables of *Waltham-Abbey*, by which Distresses were made on the Goods of the Persons convicted to the Amount of 8l. 17s.

By Virtue of a Warrant granted by *John Tendering* Justice, upon Information of their being at religious Meetings, Distresses were made by the Officers of *Hatfield-Peverill*, by which were taken

	l.	s.	d.	
From <i>Philip Woolridge</i> , <i>Hugh Nichols</i> , <i>Martha Nichols</i> Widow, <i>Katharine Blundall</i> , and <i>John Spencer</i> , Goods worth	4	14	0	}
<i>John Smith</i> , <i>Thomas Walford</i> , <i>John Lea</i> , and <i>Richard Cast</i>	4	13	0	
<i>Paul Gatewood</i> , <i>John Webb</i> , <i>Elizabeth True</i> , and <i>Edward Eatney</i>	2	0	6	}
	11	7	6	

Fines levied
in Essex for
Meeting in
Hartford-
shire.

Distresses for
Meeting.

The Constables, who made these Distresses, reported, that the convicting Justice had directed them to take for 5s. as many Goods as were worth 5l. A Direction favouring more of furious Zeal than an equal Distribution of Justice.

John Rand of *Little-Baddow*, *Phineas Barnard* of *Mountnessing*, *Thomas Sewel*, *Joseph Lark*, *John Silvester*, *John Marshall*, *John Cakebread* of *Samford*, *John Wastell*, *John Butcher*, *Francis Eve*, *William Sutton*, *James Warner*, and *Edward Eatney*, were summoned to appear before the Justices at the Petty-Sessions, on the 2d of *December* 1683, for no other apparent Cause than their religious Dis-

A Justice's
unjust Direc-
tion to the
Constable.
13 Summoned
to Sessions,
and sent to
Prison.

sent

ESSEX.
1683.

Released at
the Assizes.

Indictments
for 20l. per
Month.

Attachment
for Tithes.

Sundry Impri-
sonments.

Imprisonment
by a Writ de
Excom. Cap.
Trained-
Bands.

Illegal Act of
Colonel Tur-
ner.

Imprisonment
of M. Cock-
erton.
Tithe of
Corn.

sent from the Religion established by Law : When there, they were required to find Sureties for their good Behaviour, which they, having given no just Occasion of Offence, refused to do, and were therefore committed to *Chelmsford* Goal, and detained there three Months, till the Assizes, when they were set at Liberty by Judge *Jones*, on Bond given for their Appearance at the Assizes following : At which Assizes *John Child* of *Felsted*, *John Bunting* of *Halsted*, *John Cakebread* of *Samford*, and *William Swann*, and several others were indicted on the Statute of 20l. per Month, for Absence from the National Worship : *Michael Pettitt* was also prosecuted for the same Cause.

ANNO 1684. On the 9th of the Month called *May*, *John Norden* and *Nathanael Sparrow* were committed to Prison by an Attachment issued out of the Court of Chancery on a Prosecution there for Tithes, at the Suit of *John Heath* a Distiller of *London*, Executor to *Thomas Cooke* late Priest of *Stisted*.

In the same Month, upon an Information of meeting together for religious Worship, *John Dunbar*, *Simon Joslin*, *John Griffin*, and *John Plumb*, were committed to Prison by Justice *Ballett* of *Hatfield Broad-Oak*, and continued there till the next Assizes, when they were recommitted by the Judge. The same Justice *Ballett* caused *Richard Burles* of *Feering* to be taken up, as he was passing the Street, and committed him to Prison.

In this Year *Thomas Houchin* of *Feering*, was committed to Prison by a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo* : And *Thomas Turner* of *Coggeshall*, for refusing to pay toward the Charges of the Trained-Bands, had Goods taken from him to the Value of 10s.

We conclude our Account of this Year with an illegal and arbitrary Proceeding of *Colonel Turner*, and others at *Thaxted*, who lock'd and naild up the Door of the Meeting-house there, which the next Day they opened again, taking away the Forms, Benches, and Stand, all which, together with the Window-Shutters of an Apartment, they carried to a Green not far from the Town and burnt them.

ANNO 1685: *Mary Cockerton* a Widow, was a Prisoner in *Chelmsford* Goal, having been committed thither on a Prosecution for Tithes.

ANNO 1690. In this Year *John Mascall* of *Finchingfield*, and *John Cakebread*, had Corn taken from them for Tithe, to the Value of 4l. 3s. 6d.

C H A P. XV.

GLOCESTER-
SHIRE.
1656.

GLOCESTERSHIRE.

ANNO 1656.

11 Persons
prosecuted in
the Exche-
quer.

Imprisonment
of W. Simson,

and S. Clift.

OUR earliest Account of Sufferings in this County, bearing Date this Year, relate, that eleven Persons had been then prosecuted in the *Exchequer* for not paying Tithes : Their Names were, *Walter Clement*, *Reynold Williams*, *William Watkins*, *Walter Summers*, *Thomas Hill*, *William Woolley*, *Thomas Dooding*, *Elizabeth Dorney*, *Maurice Smith*, *John Taylor*, and *William Box*.

ANNO 1657. In this Year *William Simson*, attempting to exhort the People, after the Priest had ended his Sermon, at *Chipping-Camden*, was rudely insulted and abused by the Rabble. A few Days after, for the like Attempt at the same Place, he was committed to Prison, and at length sent away, like a Vagrant, with a Pass. In this Year also *Samuel Clift*, a Clothier of *Avening*, was by a Justice's Warrant sent to *Glocester* Goal : At the next Quarter

Quarter Sessions he was indicted, for that he did by Word, Deed, and Overture, voluntarily and maliciously molest and interrupt Samuel Hearn Clerk, in the Time of Divine Service, and open Praying and Preaching: But upon his Trial it appeared, that he did neither act nor speak any Thing, but stood still all the Time, wherefore the Jury acquitted him. The Justice, who committed him, enraged at his coming before him with his Hat on, struck him several Times; and an officious Constable before that, set him in the Stocks without any Warrant for so doing: The innocent Man patiently bore these lawless Indignities without seeking to avenge himself, but committed his Cause to him who judgeth righteously.

On the 9th of the Month called July, Richard Atwood was committed to Prison for Tithes, where, after a Year's Confinement, he died.

In the same Month Edward Buden and William Beafely, for Demands of Tithe less than 20s. each, were sent to Goal, and detained there above seventeen Months. During their Imprisonment the Prosecutor took away three Cows from the former, and six from the other of them. In this Year also Richard Hollister, Thomas Beale, and his two Sisters, Alice Beale and Mary Beale, were imprisoned for Tithes.

On the 13th of September, William Webb of Broadway in Worcestershire, passing through Chipping-Camden toward a Meeting, was observed by a Justice, who demanded 10s. of him for travelling on the Sabbath, and for Non-payment ordered him to be set in the Stocks. The same Justice caused the like Punishment to be inflicted on William Russel, Mary Dury, Alice Butcher, Joane Wiggan, and Thomas Lane, for going to a Meeting in Broad-Camden, the Parish where they dwelt.

ANNO 1658. In this Year Thomas White, Francis Pinnell, Joseph Tomkins, and Thomas Hopcott, suffered Imprisonment for not paying Tithes: And while Pinnell was in Prison several Loads of his Corn were taken away by Order of the Prosecutor, one of them in the Night. William Wooley for Tithes had an Horse taken from him worth 5l. The same Man also was prosecuted in the Exchequer for Tithes of but 6d. Value. Prosecutions were likewise commenced in the Exchequer against Abraham Atwood, Elizabeth Dorney, William Millutt, William Cooke, and Joseph Dorney, Inhabitants of Stoke-Gifford, for Tithes. Rachel Trueman was sued in the Hundred Court, and for 10s. demanded for Tithes, had a Cow taken from her worth 5l. Richard Roche of Old-Sadbary, for 32s. demanded, had his Goods taken away to the Value of 3l. 15s. And John Tyler of Frampton-Cotterell, sued by his Parish Priest for Tithe of about 20s. Value, was adjudged by the Court to pay 10l. 10s. beside 3l. 10s. Costs he had been put to.

Deborah Hurding, after the Priest at Dirfley had ended his Sermon, would have given a Christian Exhortation to the People, but they fell into an Uproar, some crying Kill her, others Strike her down, others Tear her in pieces: The Magistrates, to secure her from the Rabble, sent her to Prison: After some Time an Uncle of her's interceding on her Behalf, they would have discharged her by winking at her Escape through a Back-door, which when she refused to comply with, they sent her to Gloucester Goal on the 2d of November. Richard Marshall was also there imprisoned, after he had been beaten, and had his Coat taken from him.

ANNO 1659. The Names of the Prisoners for Tithes this Year in Gloucester were, Thomas Hopcott, Anne Webb, William Wooley, William Atwood, John Hathway, Samuel Bampton, Nathanael Haskins, John Cox, Henry Floyd, Timothy Greaves, Anthony Care, and Richard Sermon, divers of whom remained there several Years.

About this Time Nathanael Haskins, John Warner, and John Ball, for Demands of 12s. 7d. for Church-Rates, had Goods taken away to the Value of 22s. Also William Wooley, John Hathway, and Thomas Gale, had their Goods taken away on the same Account.

GLOCESTER-SHIRE.
1657.

Imprisonment of R. Atwood, and others for Tithes.

W. Webb put in the Stocks, and divers others.

Processes and Distresses for Tithes.

D. Harding imprisoned, refuses to escape.

R. Marshall imprisoned.

Prisoners Names.

GLOCESTER-
SHIRE.
1660.

Death of
J. Welby
Prisoner for
Tithes.

Violence of
H. Fox a
fighting Priest.

Many Abuses
from Soldiers.

Many sent to
Prison.

5 Had the
Oath tendered
by the King's
Commissioners.

ANNO 1660. *John Welby* of *Brokworth*, about eighty seven Years of Age, was committed to *Warcester* Goal for Tithes of about 20*s.* Value, at the Suit of *Christopher Guy* Impropiator, where, after a Year's Imprisonment, he died. While he was sick, the Brother of the Impropiator his Prosecutors, demanded Payment of his Wife, which she refusing, he told her, that if her Husband died, he should not be buried, but hung upon the House-Top, to be devoured by the Fowls of the Air. This Threat, though beyond his Power to execute, shew'd the Malignity of his Disposition.

About the Beginning of this Year, several Persons were insulted in their Houses by Soldiers of the County Militia, who under Pretence of searching for Arms, entred into Houses, eating and drinking what they could find, and carrying away what they pleased: By their Means *Judith Hope*, *Thomas Harrison*, *Ely Hollins*, *Bernard Perks*, *Joane Betterby*, and others, suffered much.

William Edwards was sorely beaten for exhorting the Priest of *Aust* to fear the Lord: And *Jenkin Hopkins*, reproving the Priest of *Staunton* for his Pride, was by him struck in the Face. At this Time one *Hopwell Fox*, Priest of *Lidney*, was remarkable for the Violence of his Temper: When *Stephen Hubbersty* asked him before his Hearers, *Whether he was a Minister of Christ?* He answered, *I scorn to tell such a Rogue as you are*, and presently laid violent Hands on him, thrust him out of the Place, and threw him down to the Ground. At another Time *William Hibbs* asking him the same Question, he came out of his Pulpit, and in a Rage laid Hands on *William*, thrust him into a Pool of Water and Dirt, and when he came out again, threw his Hat into the same, and with much Violence and Fury kickt him on the Belly, saying, that if he had his Rapier, he would have run him through. His Servant also ran a Pitchfork into *William Hibbs*'s Foot, so that he was not able to go, nor rise from the Ground without Help. The same Priest and his Servants took *William Hibbs*, *John Woodroof*, and *William Grindall*, out of their Houses, and kept them in an Alehouse, till he sent for an Officer to carry them to Prison: On this Occasion *Hibbs* again asked him, *Whether he was a Minister of Christ?* He answered *I am*, and ran violently upon him, and strove to pull him to the Ground: After this the Bayliffs carried them all three to *Glocester* Goal, where they were put among Thieves and Malefactors. After this *Joane Hibbs* (probably the said *William's* Wife) testifying against the Decent and Wickedness of the said *Hopwell Fox*, he came with a Staff in his Hand to beat her, but was prevented by one of his own Hearers. Another Woman, named *Mary Plant*, reproving him, he struck her three Blows with his Cane, so hard that she was not able to lift her Arms to her Head a great while after, and would have done her more Mischief, had not his Hearers restrained him.

On the 8th of the Month called *May* this Year, *John Ready*, *John Jeyes*, *Nicholas Wastfield*, and others, being met at *Ready's* House in *Naismore*, a Deputy Constable, with a drawn Sword, came in and ordered them to be gone, and struck *Nicholas Wastfield* many Blows with his Sword: Being asked, *By what Authority he acted?* He answered, *By the Mayor's Order*. On the 18th *George Robinson*, *Samuel Clift*, and *Robert Hall*, being at a Meeting in *Shortwood*, were taken by armed Men, and carried to the Governour of *Glocester*, who committed them to the *Marshalsea*. *John Gwyn*, as he was going to a Meeting, was sorely beaten and abused by some of the Militia.

On the 1st of the Month called *June*, *John Giles* and *Samuel Clift*, taken at a Meeting in *Glocester*, were sent to Prison: as were also about the same Time, *John Roberts*, *Thomas Owendall*, *Philip Gray*, *William Bowles*, *Thomas Bamfield*, *Henry Stacy*, *Jacob Hewlam*, *William Henton*, and *Thomas Eldridge*, who had been taken at Meetings in *Cirencester* and *Tedbury*.

On the 20th of *December*, the Deputy-Lieutenant of the County, with a Party of Horse and Foot, entered the Meeting at *Cirencester*, with Sword and Pistol, and carried five Persons before the King's Commissioners, who, though they acknowledged them to be honest Men, yet tendered them the Oath of Allegiance,

Allegiance, and sent them to Prison for refusing it. The Names of three of them were *Richard Townsend, Roger Spark, and John Roberts.*

On the 13th of the Month called *January*, *Robert Morse*, an Attorney of *Cirencester*, with a Constable, came to the Meeting there, violently assaulted those that were met, striking some, and dragging others by the Hair of their Head; nay, so inhuman were they as to pluck a Staff out of a blind Man's Hand and beat him with it. They forced them away to Prison, and ordered the Goaler to bind them Neck and Heels. Next Day the Commissioners tendered them the Oath, and sent them to Goal. The Names of those who signed an Account of this, and who probably were many of them at that Meeting, were, *Nathanael Cripps, John Roberts, Richard Townsend, Jacob Hewlings, John Cripps, Philip Grey, Henry Stacey, Richard Arnold, Thomas Barnfield, Walter Hawkins, Thomas Eldridge, Thomas Knight, Roger Townsend, Thomas Onion, John Clark, Richard Crowther, Alexander Cornwall, and William Henton.* Two Days after, a Party of Soldiers came to the House of *Nathanael Cripps* near *Tetbury*, searched the House above and below, and took away a Fowling-piece under Pretence of Arms; and meeting him coming out of the Fields, they carried him to *Cirencester*, where the Oath was tendered, and he refusing to take it was committed to Prison. The next Day the Under-Sheriff and Bayliffs, directed by two Informers, about ten at Night, took three industrious honest Men from their Houses; the first a *Cooper*, having five Children; the other two were *Woolcombers*, one of whose Doors they broke open and took him out of Bed from his Wife and Child, the other, upon their violent knocking, rose and let them in, when they hastily seized him, and hurried him to an Inn, whither the other two were also carried: They were kept there all that Night, while the Sheriff's Bayliffs and Informers spent the Time in drinking Healths, playing at Cards, quarrelling, and belching out horrible Oaths and Curses, to the Dishonour of God, and Grief of the Prisoners: Next Morning they carried them to the Commissioners, who, because they refused to take the Oaths, sent them to Prison.

In this Month a Constable and others came to the House of *John Woodroose* of *Ailburton*, and took from the Meeting there, both Men, Women, and Children, keeping them two Days and two Nights; after which they carried them before two Justices of the Peace, who dismissed the Women and Children, but used the Men hardly, one of the Justices striking *William Hibbs* on the Head, and the other bidding the Constable set him in the Stocks all Night. On the Morrow they were conducted to the Sessions at *Glocester*, and thence for refusing the Oath were committed. Their Names were, *John Edy, Jenkin Hopkin, John Gwyn, Henry Stanton, William Hibbs, John Woodroose, William Grindle, William Howell, John Cox sen. John Cox jun. Henry Lloyd, Edward Cox, Philip Simon, Thomas Atkin, and John Willets.* On the same Day *Thomas Hopcott, John Surnam, John Bond, and Richard Marshall*, were put out of an House where they were met, and for refusing to Swear, sent to the County Goal, whither had been committed a few Days before, *George Senderby, George King, Zachary Phillips, Giles Clifford, Joseph Bellamy, John Perkins, Thomas Senderby, Thomas Porter, Judith Hope, Joane Phillips, Joane Doel, Katharine Senderby, Elizabeth Tyler, Joane Tyler, Sarah Osband, and Sarah Harris*, who being summoned to appear before the Justices, and refusing to Swear, were committed till the next Sessions, where the Oath was again tendered them, and they were recommitted, to their very great Suffering, several of them being very poor, and having no Subsistence but by their Labour.

On the 13th of the Month called *January*, Soldiers came to the Meeting at *Glocester*, and carried all the Men to the *Marshalsea*, where they were detained three Nights, after which they were had before the Mayor and Aldermen, who sent *John Ready, Richard Webb, John Watkins, Nathanael Holloway, Henry Riddell, John Feies, John Edmunds, and Nicholas Wastfield*, to the City Goal for refusing the Oaths, and a few Days after they sent *John Wastfield, Richard Holland, and Giles Kendall*, to the same Prison for the same Cause.

On

GLOCESTER-SHIRE.
1660.

Commitment of many to Prison from a Meeting at Cirencester.

Some hurried out of their Beds to Prison.

Imprisonment of many from Ailburton Meeting.

More committed for refusing to Swear.

GLOCESTER-
SHIRE.
1660.

Hard Usage.

Prisoners mis-
used.

Commitments
to Prison from
Tewksbury
Meeting.

Conference be-
tween the Bp.
of Gloucester,
and T. At-
kin.

On the 17th a Justice of the Peace, attended by Soldiers, went to Nailsworth, and took up several Persons, some from their Houses, others from their Business, and some from a Meeting. After a formal Examination he tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing it sent eleven of them to Gloucester Goal, namely, Robert Hall, Robert Langley, Robert Silvester, Richard Smith, William Beale sen. William Beale jun. John Wakely, Daniel Brown, Benjamin Deane, William Wilkins, and William Penly: Some of the Prisoners being weary in travelling to Gloucester, and one of them near eighty Years of Age, the Constable in Civility would have let them lodge at an Inn the first Night after they came thither, but an officious Man, one Captain Powell, would not suffer it, but obliged them to go immediately to Prison.

On the 20th both Men and Women were thrust out of the Meeting-place, at Broad-Camden, by Soldiers, who delivered them to the Tything-men, and they next Day had them before Justice Overbury, who tendred them the Oaths; they signified that they were ready to promise Duty and Allegiance to the King, but could not Swear for Conscience-sake, as believing it to be contrary to Christ's Command. The Justice replied, if they believed it evil to Swear, they ought not to do it, nevertheless as he was sworn to execute the Law, he must send them to Prison; and accordingly he committed Henry Daffie, William Russel, Thomas Cale, Edward Warner, Thomas Mosely, Thomas Keite, and William Keite, to the County Goal, where the Felons and other Prisoners abused them, taking away their Hats and Clothes.

On the 24th of the Month called February, Francis Jefferies, Nathaniel Jeines, Samuel Mosse, John Ward, Jacob Underhill, John Prickett, William Peachy, Samuel Skitser, Thomas Edwards, and Edward Waters, were taken from a Meeting at Tewksbury, and because they refused to give Sureties for their good Behaviour, were committed to Prison.

ANNO 1662. On the 16th of September this Year, the Bishop of Gloucester held a Visitation at Dursley, and hearing that Thomas Atkin a Quaker, was come to dwell there, he sent two Constables for him, who being brought before him, the Bishop was pleased to interrogate him. The Conference which passed between them was as follows, viz.

Bp. Are you the Chandler that came lately to this Town?

T. A. I am.

Bp. Whence did you come?

T. A. Out of Herefordshire.

Bp. From whence there?

T. A. From Ross.

Bp. What brought you hither?

T. A. It is so ordered of the Lord that I am come hither.

Bp. How can you prove that the Lord did order you to come hither?

T. A. I am in the Hand of the Lord, and can go no whither but as the Lord doth order me.

Bp. Do you come to Church?

T. A. I am in the Church.

Bp. What Church?

T. A. In the Church of God.

Bp. Ay, but do you come to the Congregation?

T. A. I am in the Congregation.

Bp. What Congregation?

T. A. In the Congregation of the Faithful.

Bp. How many are in your Congregation?

T. A. I am not able to number the Faithful; neither am I to meddle with such Things: It belongs not to me.

Bp. Ay, come on, how many then are in the Congregation that meets at your House?

T. A. Sometimes more, and sometimes fewer.

Bp. How

Bp. How many are the fewest that you call the Faithful that you are in, are they four, or are they five, more or less?

T. A. Sometimes there are four or five, sometimes more or less, as the Lord doth order their Spirits in Freedom to come.

Bp. And what do you do that you call your selves the Faithful? What do you do in your Meetings?

T. A. Sit and wait upon the Lord in Singleness of Heart, that we may know the Lord's Will, and by the same Power that has made us willing to wait upon him, in Silence of our Spirits, that we may receive Power to do his Will only.

Bp. Then you judge not those to be of the Faithful. [The two Constables standing by.]

T. A. I judge no Man: I leave the Judgment of all Men to the Lord, for he alone is worthy to judge both Quick and Dead, and will judge every Man according to his Works.

Bp. How do you know that all are faithful that come to your Meetings?

T. A. Every Tree is known by its Fruits. The Apple-tree is known from a Thorn or Briar.

Bp. That is true: But how do you know all their Fruits that come to your Meetings to be good?

T. A. I have told thee already, that the Tree is known by its Fruit, whether it be good or bad.

Bp. What Fruit have those that meet with you that is good?

T. A. A chaste Conversation, walking in the Fear of the Lord; doing to all Men as they would be done to; doing Good for Evil; not rendring Evil for Evil, but following Christ our Example, who is our Head, who taught us to hate no Man, but to love all Men.

Bp. But how do you know that all are of this Mind that come to your Meetings?

T. A. I have told thee; the Tree is known by its Fruit.

Bp. Ay, but how can you know or distinguish the Taste of the Fruits, one Fruit being so like another?

T. A. The Fruit of the Thorn is known from the Fruit of another Tree, for it prickles every Lilly, or tender Flower that grows by it.

Bp. Ay, but how do you know but Hypocrites may come among you?

T. A. Christ Jesus, the Light of the World, who hath enlightened every Man, he knows the Secrets of all Hearts.

Bp. Ay, but in Christ's Time there were Pharisees that were honest Men.

T. A. But yet they persecuted Christ.

Bp. Ay, but many of them did not persecute him.

T. A. Yet they did not follow Christ, so they kept the same Nature of the Pharisees that persecuted him, because they believed not the only Son of God.

Bp. Judas followed Christ, and yet betrayed him.

T. A. But if Judas had been faithful to his Call, he would never have betrayed his Master.

Bp. Do you believe that Christ Jesus is the only Son of God?

T. A. Yea, I know him to be so.

Bp. But do you believe he is Son by Adoption, or as a Creature, or do you believe that he is the Eternal Son of God.

T. A. I know him to be the Eternal Son of God, that was before the World was, and by him all Things were made that are made, and without him there is nothing made that is made.

Bp. That is well, if you believe so: There are many of your Judgment that do not confess to this that you do.

T. A. I know no Man, that is in the Fear of God, that is a Friend of mine, that will deny this that I have spoken.

Bp. Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost?

T. A. I do.

Bp. But do you believe the Trinity?

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H h h

T. A.

GLOCES-
TER-
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1662.

T. A. I know no such Scripture that mentions Trinity: What dost thou mean when thou say'st Trinity?

Bp. The Trinity is three Persons.

T. A. I know no such Scripture that names three Persons: I know God is not divided, neither can he be divided according to Men's Imaginations.

Bp. Come on, I thought where I should have you anon: Do you not believe the Trinity?

T. A. I have told thee already: I do believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; but as for the Word Trinity, or three Persons, I know not any Scripture that mentions any such Thing; but I have read of Christ, that in him dwells the Fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Bp. Have you not read that there are three that bear Record in Heaven, and these three are one: And three that bear Record in Earth, and these three agree in one?

T. A. This makes good that God is not divided, but is the one only true God, in whom I do believe, who made the Heavens and the Earth.

Bp. Well then: I will turn you to a Place where you may find three Persons. Have you not read when Christ was in Jordan, where he was baptized; when he was in the Water he was one Person; and the Holy Ghost came in the Shape of a Dove, which was two Persons; and the Voice spake from Heaven, and said, This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased: Was not that the third Person?

T. A. That Scripture doth not mention Persons at all, therefore unless I can see that Scripture which doth mention Persons or Trinity, I shall not believe any such Thing, for I know God is not divided.

A Priest. My Lord, they deny the Scriptures, and he will not believe unless you bring the Word punctually three Persons.

T. A. It is false: We own the Scriptures, and witness them to be true.

Another Priest. Two to one is odds.

Then the first Priest spake again.

Priest. I am sure, one of your Judgment, near Bristol, denied the Scriptures.

T. A. I answer for my self, and not for another Man.

Priest. Do you own the Scriptures to be the only Word of God?

T. A. I own Christ to be the only Word of God, and the Scriptures I own to be what they declare themselves to be: And Christ is and was the only Word of God before ever Scripture was written: Paper and Ink is not the Word of God, but it declares the Words of God, and holy Men spake them as they were moved of the Holy Ghost.

Bp. Do you own and believe that the Scriptures were written by the Dictates of the Holy Spirit?

T. A. I know they were, and no Man can interpret them aright, but by the same Spirit by which they were given forth.

Bp. When did you receive the Sacrament?

T. A. I know no such Scripture as speaks of a Sacrament.

Bp. Why, it's written so.

T. A. Men may write what they will or do imagine, but I never read of a Sacrament in Scripture.

Bp. Do you not receive the Lord's Supper?

T. A. What is the Lord's Supper?

Bp. Bread and Wine.

T. A. The Lord's Supper I do receive, which is the Body and Blood of Christ, for that is my Life: Upon that do I feed, and break it daily with the Faithful.

Bp. Do not you believe that Bread and Wine is the Body and Blood of Christ, which Christ brake to his Disciples.

T. A. Bread and Wine come to Corruption: But the Body and Blood of Christ is Life eternal, and never comes to Corruption.

Bp. Do

Bp. Do you own Baptism?

T. A. John's Baptism I own, and his Commission too.

Bp. Ay, but do you own Water-Baptism?

T. A. John's Baptism was Water-Baptism.

Bp. Ay, but do you own no other Baptism?

T. A. Christ's Baptism I do own, and witness according to my Measure.

Bp. Were you not baptized?

T. A. I know not what my Parents did with me, when I was a Child.

Bp. How many Children have you?

T. A. I have none at all.

Bp. You must be conformable to the Laws of the Nation.

T. A. I am conformable to the Law of God.

Bp. But I will make you conformable to the Law of the Nation too.

T. A. I am made by the Hand and Power of the Lord God already; and I hope thou, nor no Man, shall ever make me conformable to that which I know to be a Sin against God.

Bp. You are a very stubborn Fellow, but I will make you submit, or else I will send you back from whence you came.

T. A. I am not stubborn, as thou thinkest: I am a Man that feareth God, and I fear not what Man can do unto me.

Bp. I will make you bow, or I will make you fast enough.

T. A. My Hope is in the Lord, and thou shalt never make me bow to that which I know to be a Sin against the God of my Life; and if thou shouldst be permitted to tear this Body in pieces, yet I fear thee not. I desire thee to shew that Scripture, where thou canst prove, that any true Christian that lived in the Fear of the Eternal God, ever persecuted any Man for Conscience-sake. Or that any of the Saints of God ever threatened any, as thou dost me: If thou canst, shew it.

Bp. Those whom you call Saints, would persecute more than any Man, if they had Power in their Hands.

T. A. Thou canst not make that appear, neither by Scripture, nor present Example of those that live in the same Life.

Several other threatening Words the Bishop uttered as he went down Stairs, and so passed away to the Steeple-house.

Then the Priest who had said before, Two to one is odds, said, I own all you have said, and no Man can contradict it, neither by Scripture nor Honesty, and I should own you more than any People, if you would joyn with us.

T. A. Dost thou believe the Spirit of God is changeable?

Priest. No.

T. A. Why turnedst thou thy Coat according to the Powers of Men: Thou preachedst other Doctrine the other Day than thou dost now, and prayedst for another Power. I cannot joyn with thee, who art given so much to Change and Alteration, for I know the Spirit of God changeth not.

So the Priests also went their Way, and Thomas Atkin returned Home.

On the 6th of November a Meeting at Cirencester was violently broke up by Soldiers, who carried about twelve Friends to the Deputy-Lieutenant, charging them with being at a mute Meeting. They were kept some Time under a Guard, and afterward sent to Prison.

On the 9th George Robinson, John Hayward, John Cripps, Thomas Onion, Robert Silvester, Robert Newcomb, Robert Penson, Roger Sparks, Richard Townsend, Henry Simons, John Timbrell, Thomas Barnfield, Henry Stacey, Thomas Knight, Thomas Eldridge, William Hinton, William England, Timothy England, Walter Hewlings, Elizabeth Hewlings, Thomas Cowley, Thomas Bowley a blind Man, Richard Bowley, John Ownell, Philip Gray, John Clark, and Samuel Clift, were taken from a Meeting at Cirencester by Soldiers, and carried to the Marshall's Prison till the 15th, when the Commissioners returned them back to Prison for refusing to take the Oaths. With them was also committed Nathanael Cripps an aged Man, at that Time very sick, which caused his Wife earnestly to intercede

12 Committed
to Prison.

27 Sent to
Prison.

Hard Usage of
an aged sick
Man.

GLOCESTER-
SHIRE.
1662.

John and Nicholas Wastfield imprisoned for refusing to swear.
An observable Incident.

7 Sent to Prison.

Distress for Meetings.

S. Eccles and others imprisoned.
A notable Passage between S. Eccles and the Bishop's Secretary.

C. Harris imprisoned.

Imprisonment for worshipping God.

Widow Hewlings murdered.

The Coroner's Fury overaw'd.

intercede for his Liberty one Week longer, offering to lie in Prison herself in his stead, but the Commissioners would not grant it.

On the 25th of December, John Wastfield and Nicholas Wastfield, Blacksmiths, of Gloucester, being at Work with their Shop open, were taken by the Mayor's Officers, and detained till next Day, when some of the Aldermen tendered them the Oath of Allegiance, and sent them to Prison, where they were close confined seventeen Weeks.

About this Time Henry Howland of Tewksbury, for refusing to bear Arms, or to pay toward the Charge of the Militia, had an Horse taken from him worth 4l. 8s. The Person who took the Horse acknowledging, that he did it against his Conscience, Henry Howland told him, he might then expect some Judgment would follow; and it was observed, that the said Person, having ordered his Son to sell the Horse, as he was riding, the Horse ran violently with him against the Arm of a Tree, so that he died of the Blow immediately.

ANNO 1663. On the 1st of November seven Persons, taken from a Meeting at Gloucester, were sent to Prison and detained there many Weeks.

ANNO 1665. In November this Year, Henry Howland of Tewksbury, had three Cows and one Steer taken from him for permitting religious Meetings at his House.

ANNO 1667. On the 8th of the Month called March, Solomon Eccles, Nicholas Wastfield, William Monington, and James Moreton, for refusing to swear, were committed to Prison by the Mayor of Gloucester. While they lay there a remarkable Encounter happened between the said Solomon Eccles, and George Evans the Bishop's Secretary, who came to the Prison, and in a scoffing Manner, pulled off his Hat to Solomon, who thereupon advised him to be sober: This put the Man in a Chafe, and he struck Solomon a violent Blow on the Cheek, upon which Solomon turned to him the other Cheek, and he struck him again on that. Solomon again turned to him the other, and he smote him a third Time. All which Solomon bore patiently, thus literally performing the Precept of Christ, Mat. v. 39. and obtaining a Christian Conquest over his Opposer.

ANNO 1668. Charles Harris was taken out of a Meeting at Gloucester, and sent to Prison in the Month called June this Year.

ANNO 1670. On the 10th of the Month called July, Thomas Masters, a Justice, came to the Meeting at Cirencester, and addressed himself to one of the Persons present, saying, HAYWARD, what is the Intent of your meeting here? He answered, We meet for no evil End, the Lord knows. The Justice asked again, What is the End? 'Twas answered, We meet together in the Fear of the Lord to wait upon him. Then said the Justice, And to worship him, do you not? Yes, said one of them: That's enough, replied the Justice, we need no farther Evidence. So he called his Clerk, took their Names, and fined them. One of the Friends asked, By what Law are we convicted? The Justice answered, Why, you have confessed, that you meet to worship God. The Friend replied, Is that a Crime? Yes, that it is, said the Justice: Shew us that Law, said the Friend: The Justice replied, Here is a Law, that you must not worship above five together, except at the Church; and as for your Suffering, be it upon us. The Friend answered, So said the Jews, His Blood be upon us; but it proved an heavy Burden upon them. With that the Justice trembled, and in a Rage laid Hands on several of them, and called his Company to help him: The Meeting being in an upper Room, they brought the Friends to the Top of the Stairs, where one John Cooke a wicked Fellow, cried, Clear the Stairs, and Jenkins, said to be an Hangman, assisting, they threw the Friends down Stairs: An ancient Widow, named Hewlings, by the Violence of the Fall was lamentably bruised, and had her Shoulder dislocated, of which she soon after died. She was an useful Woman in the Neighbourhood, a skilful Midwife, and ready to do Good to all. The Coroner was sent for, a Jury called, and Jenkins apprehended: But the Justice having an Influence over the Jury, who were most of them his Tenants, and the Coroner willing to favour the Persecutors,

Persecutors, smothered the Blood of the Innocent: And the Jury, notwithstanding the clearest Evidence of *Eye Witnesses*, and the Sight of the bruised Body, grievous to behold, gave in their Verdict, *that she died of God's Visitation.* Thus the Murderer escaped, and was no more called in Question.

At Gloucester, on the 15th of the Month called May, the Friends who were at the Meeting were fined upon Information made by *Thomas Langley*, one of the Bishop's Domesticks, and the Chancellor's Son. On the 22d the said *Langley* and one of the Bishop's Grooms came into the Meeting, and on their Information Justice *Scudamore* granted a Warrant of Distress for 5s. each. On the 29th the Justices *Scudamore* and *Hodges* came personally to the Meeting, pluckt out the Friends by Violence, and took their Names. On the 5th of the Month called June, the same Justices, with the Mayor and Constables, proceeded in the same Manner. On the 19th Soldiers were ordered to keep them out, but finding them met, pluckt them into the Street: When there, *Wagstaffe* the Mayor, with *William Lamb* Clerk to the College, beat them with their Canes, till the Mayor's Cane was broken, and then he laid on them with another Staff: When tired with striking he sent for a Sledge, and caused several Doors to be broke open, took from *Richard Webb* Goods worth 10l. and from *Godfrey Fownes* Linen worth 17l. This was done on the First-day of the Week. Next Day he sent several Officers who made Distresses from House to House; they took again from *Richard Webb* Goods worth 2l. 12s. They seized again at *Godfrey Fownes's* Coals and other Goods worth 100l, which his Wife, not of his Persuasion, paid 16l. to redeem: From *Nicholas Perry* they took Goods worth above 10l. And from *John Cox* to the Value of 2l. 16s. From *Henry Ryddal* Goods worth 20l. From *John Watkins* and *Alice Roberts* to the Value of 2l. 6s. From *Jacob Cugly* a poor Cardmaker, with a great Charge of Children, they took almost all his Goods, leaving not a Bed to lie on, nor scarce the Value of 1s. in his House: From *Daniel Bayly* a poor Journeyman Taylor, they took the Bed on which his Wife at that Time lay sick: From *Thomas Miles* a Weaver, they took his Loom: And from *Richard Holland* a very poor Man, all his Goods: From *John Wastfield* a Smith, they took his Bellows, Anvil, Vices, and other working Tools, for want of which he and his Brother lost their Employment: Which Tools, with his Bed, Bedstead, and other Things also taken away, were worth above 10l. From *Henry Egly* and his Wife they took Goods worth 3l. and because they suffered Meetings at their House, the Mayor and other Justices sent them both to *Bridewell*, the Woman being with Child. In short, these Spoilers scarce left any of the Friends a Bed to lie on, and several were so cruelly beaten, that their Flesh was of many Colours. In making these Distresses they had little Regard to Property: When they had taken from *Thomas Wimard* some Wire belonging to another Man, on his acquainting the Mayor with it, he was answered, *That he must bring his Action of Debt against the Man from whom it was taken.* When they had taken Goods from *John Edmunds* worth 5l. and he had delivered the rest of his Goods to one *William Blake* in Part of a Debt he owed him, the Justices sent and took away those Goods from the Creditor to the Value of 10l. telling him, *that he must not defraud the King.* Their Disregard of Right was yet more evident in the Case of *William Day*, who, upon the coming out of the Conventicle Act, foreseeing his Ruin, and that he should in all Probability be disabled to pay his Creditors, made over to two of them his Effects for their Security, before the Act took place: Nevertheless the Officers seized those Goods for his going to Meetings, and obliged the Creditors to pay at one Time 30s. and at another Time 8l. 10s. which they did rather than contend at Law, though the Goods were really their own Property. The Goods thus taken were usually put into the Steeple-house, and when designed for Market, a Bell-man was employed to cry a Sale, but most People of Conscience were unwilling to buy them, wherefore they were sold to others much beneath their real Value.

At *Taynton* was a small Meeting of but four beside the Family; the Priest of that Place, a common Drunkard, stirred up his Companions to molest them.

GLOCESTER-SHIRE.
1670.

Distresses for Meeting, on Information of the Bishop's Servants.

A Man and his Wife sent to Bridewell.

A Mayor regardless of Property.

Under-selling of Goods.

GLOUCESTER-SHIRE.
1670.

Goods under-
sold at Mar-
kets.

Distresses by
the Conven-
ticle Act.

They got a Warrant to levy 4 s. a piece on them for Absence from the publick Worship, and took from one Goods worth 16 s. from a second as much; and from a third a Sheep worth 7 s.

At Olveston and Winterborn the Meetings were frequently disquieted, and their Cattle taken away by Drovers to Bristol Market, and when the Butchers and People refused to buy them, they were usually sent to the Justices Grounds, or some other near them, till they could procure Chapmen to buy them at sometimes less than Half their Value.

ANNO 1671. In this and the foregoing Year were taken by Distress, upon the Conventicle Act, Cattle and Goods in Value as follows, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
From Robert Smith, Maurice Smith, Thomas Withers, James White, Edward Hill, Edward Baker, Richard Hawkefworth, John White, and Thomas Thurstone	70	7	0
Joseph Cammings, John Small, Nathanael Thurstone, Edward Budding, William Watkins, John Hitchins, — Reynold, and Thomas Perryman, a Constable of Aust, who had been fined 5 l. for refusing to serve a Warrant for Distress	54	10	0
Thomas Hill, Mary Walker, John Tyler, John Prigg, William Cox, Henry Pontin, John Wickham, Mary Collins, Samuel Simons, and William Maynard	149	1	0
Richard Haines, Henry Douding, Anthony Creed, Francis Pinnel, Walter Summers, and Samuel Tovy	56	2	0
	330	0	0

Several others had their Goods taken by Distress for Meetings about this Time, viz. Samuel Summers, William Peasely, Thomas Douding, Hezekiah Cole, John Curtis, John James, John Webb, and Nebemiah Champion. Also the following Persons in Dean Forest had their Goods taken by Warrant from Justice Morgan, viz. Henry Floyd, William Hibbs, Henry Stanton, John Millett, John Swinn, Jeffery Hopkins, John Hibbs, William Howell, Katharine Cox, Jane Cox, and Edward Cox.

Warrants for
Distress grant-
ed by Sir John
Guise.

Sir John
Guise threat-
ens the Con-
stable.
Sir John
Guise wound-
ed.

Fierce Pro-
ceedings of
Justice Mere-
dith.

ANNO 1675. For Meetings at or near Cirencester in the Month called May this Year, Sir John Guise, a Justice of the Peace, issued his Warrants for Distress against John Timbrel, Richard Bowly, Richard Cork, Amy Cork, Mary Edwards, Philip Gray, William Drewett, Richard Townsend, William Petty, Amariah Drewett, William Briant, Elizabeth Clethero, Roughton Sparrow, and William Bowly: And on the 16th of the same Month, John Cripps and Jacob Hewlings were fined for the like pretended Offence. The Constable to whom these Warrants were directed, was not forward to execute them, whereupon Sir John Guise, on the 3d of the next Month, sent for him, and threatned him, that if he did not levy the Fines by the 10th of that Month, he would proceed against him for Neglect of Duty. But the Justice's Purpose was prevented, for in returning Home that Day from Cirencester he quarrell'd with another Man, and was run through the Body with a Rapier: By means of this desperate Wound, the necessary Care for his own Life diverted him from pursuing other Men's Ruin.

ANNO 1677. In this Year John Meredith, a Justice of the Peace, signa-
lized himself by fiercely prosecuting the Quakers: He caused 27 of them to be indicted at Gloucester Sessions, for Absence from the National Worship, though he knew that most of them had deeply suffered before by the Act against Conventicles: He arbitrarily required of Henry Pontin and Nathanael Heskings Sureties for their good Behaviour, when no Complaint was made against them,

them, and kept them in Prison three Months, after which he indicted them at the Sessions for Meetings, and had them fined 40*l.* each, and continued in Prison: He beat *William Bennet* and *William Wade* unmercifully with his own Hands: He took *John Selcock* by the Hair of the Head, and pluckt him out of the Meeting-house, at *French-bay*, into the Yard, then drew his Knife and said *he would mark him*, but was prevented by the Interposition of his Clerk and others: He drew his Knife at *George Peace*, and probably had done him Mischief, had not one of his own Servants restrained him: He pluckt *John Bawn* out of a Meeting by the Hair of his Head, and after that finding him in the Highway, he fell upon him and beat him barbarously: He also beat *John Fryer* and *Joseph Glaver* two Officers, because they would not abuse People so much as he would have them: When *Samuel Simons*, being wrongfully fined, appealed to him for Justice, he fell furiously upon him, and beat him inhumanly: He also caused the Forms and Benches of the Meeting-house to be cut in pieces; and with his Staff broke five Glass Windows to pieces, not leaving one whole Quarry.

Another Justice, *Gabriel Law*, excited the distraining Officers to take all they could find, and to burn or break what was not worth carrying away, infomuch that *Thomas Holbrow* an old blind Man, having his Bed taken away, was constrained to lie on Straw for eleven Months together: By this Justice's Means the same blind Man and *Henry Ashby* were indicted for not going to the publick Worship, and proceeded against at Sessions, and sent to Goal. Thus fierce were the Justices, and as cruel were the Informers, three of whom, Servants to the Marquess of Worcester, usually came to the Meetings at the said blind Man's House in *Little-Badmanton*, their Names were *Thomas Cook* the Marquess's Butcher, *Robert Long* his Baker, and *John Newman* his Keeper: One of them, *Thomas Cook*, shamefully punched, beat, and abused *Sarah Ashby*, so that she fell sick by the Abuses she received; and he had been heard to say, *It was no more Sin to kill one of the Quakers than to kill a Dog*. The said Informers coming to the Meeting, and finding but three Persons there beside the Family, threw them against the Walls and the Door-posts, and one of them several Times over a Gate, to the Hazard of his Life: They threw *Benjamin Power* over a Wall, and beat him inhumanly: They threw *John Boy* over a Gate and stile several Times, dragged him through the Street in the Dirt, and drove him in a Wheelbarrow, and threw Water upon him; they lifted him high from the Ground, and let him fall on his Back: They struck *John Taylor* several desperate Blows, and threw him over a Wall: *Cook* the Informer beat *Nebemiah Stinchcomb* till his Flesh was black, and he lay ill of the Bruises several Days: They took *John Beard* by the Hair, and beat his Head against a Post, and swore they would cut off his Ears; they followed him half a Mile, beating, kicking, pinching, and nipping his Ears in a barbarous Manner: At another Time they put a Rope about his Neck, and so led him up the Street: They took *John Peace*, about sixty four Years of Age, and dragged him into the Street, threw him upon his Back, then took him up by the Girdle from the Ground, and let him fall so that he was much bruised. Thus proceeded these wicked Informers in abusing the Innocent, apprehending themselves secure in Case of being prosecuted for their lawless and unwarrantable Actions, and would sometimes say, in the Midst of their Barbarities, *If we kill one of you, we believe we shall not be hanged for it*. Hard was the Case of honest Men subjected to the barbarous Pleasure of such inhuman Wretches.

In this Year were taken by Distress for Meetings, by Warrants from Sir *Francis Fane* Justice,

From *Joseph Cannings, William Prichard, Samuel Thurston, Richard Adams, William Rogers, Thomas Sturge, Christopher Young, Walter Summers, Edward Withers, and Edward Budding*, Goods worth

l. s. d.

108 4 0

Carried over 108 4 0

GLOCESTER-SHIRE.
1677.

Violent Proceedings of Justice Low.

Cruel Practices of Informers.

Impudence of Informers.

Distresses for Meetings.

GLOCES-
TER-
SHIRE.
1677.

Distresses for
Meetings.

	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	108	4	0
From John Cooksey, Edward Parker, Philip Mansell, William Watkins, Maurice Smith, William Smith, Jonathan Russel, Thomas Perriman, John Grinning, and Joseph Sturge, Goods to the Value of	71	16	0
	180	0	0

For Meetings at French-bay, by Warrant from Justice Meredith,

	l.	s.	d.
From Thomas Hill and Richard Tipper, Goods worth	88	11	0
And for Meetings at Bodmanton,			
From John Boy and John Jones, to the Value of	18	4	0
Margery Collins, Henry Ashby, Nehemiah Stinch- comb, John Pearce, and Thomas Holbrow, Goods worth	9	12	6
	116	7	6

ANNO 1678. In this Year were taken for Meetings at Olveston, by War-
rants granted by Sir Francis Fane,

	l.	s.	d.
From Walter Summers, Francis Pinnell, Thomas Withers, Richard Adams, William Peasly, William Culli- ford, and John Packer, Cattle and Horses worth	104	0	0
Samuel Thurston, Edward Hill, John West, Jona- than Russel, John Hollister, and John Orchard, in Cattle, Horses, and other Goods, to the Value of	57	0	0
Nathanael Thurston and John Edmonds, Corn worth	20	0	0
	181	0	0

Taken also for the same Cause, by Warrants granted by Sir Baynham Throg-
morton, for Meetings at Colford,

	l.	s.	d.
From John Gwyn, William Hibbs, Henry Lloyd, and Henry Howel, Goods to the Value of	38	0	0

For being at the same Meetings, Jenkin Hopkins of Colford was fined for
himself and others 14*l.* To levy this the Officers took out of his Shop, Cloth
and other Goods; and at another Time rifled both his Shop and House, not
leaving him so much as Bedclothes to cover himself, his Wife and Children.
His Neighbours seeing the Cruelty of the Spoilers, wept for Grief, saying,
they feared the Judgments of God would overtake them for such Doings.

John Reynolds of Berry-hill, had also many of his Goods taken away for a
Fine of 10*l.* 5*s.* imposed on him for being at one of those Meetings.

On the 6th of November this Year, Robert Wall of Hatfield, had taken from
him on an Exchequer Process, for Absence from the National Worship, a Mare
and Colt worth 6*l.* 10*s.*

In this Year also were imprisoned on Writs de Excommunicato capiendo, for not
coming to Church, so called, Matthew Andrews, Nathanael Cripps, John
Witham, John Packer, Robert Tilly, Robert Neale, Nathanael Ogburne, Jenkin
Hopkin, and Richard Westmore, which last died about a Week after his Com-
mitment.

Mary

A compas-
sionate Ex-
pression.

Exchequer
Process.

Death of
R. West-
more.

Mary Langley, Agnes Hall, Anne Pearce, and Margery Elliott, were committed to Prison on a Sessions Process as Popish Recusants: And under the same Pretence an Indictment was laid against Zachary Philips, Thomas Dole, Giles Clifford, and Edward Cox. At this Time several Constables who had made Distresses, could not sell the Goods taken, for which Reason they could not make Return of the Fines; and the Informers, being hungry for their Share of the Spoil, complained to the Justices, who fined the Constables for not returning the Money before they had raised it. The Names of those Constables were John Seager, Thomas Stephens, Robert Hancock, William Richards, William Hollister, and John Hancock.

GLOUCESTER-SHIRE.
1678.

Constable fined on Complaint of Informers.

In this Year James Pounsell was sent to Prison by the Chancellor of the Diocese of Bristol, for dwelling with his own Wife, being married four Years before, but not according to the Form prescribed in the Liturgy.

Imprisonment of J. Pounsell.

ANNO 1681. John Roberts of Sidington, had Cattle, Malt, Goods, and Money taken from him for Tithes, at several Times, to the Value of 76 l. The same Person was also committed to Cirencester Goal, at the Suit of George Bull Priest; but the Lady Dunck, of pure Charity and Compassion, paid the Priest about 4 l. and also the Goaler's Fees, and so set him at Liberty, saying, that she could not be at Peace till she had done it. Thus Providence sometimes unexpectedly raises up Friends to succour the Distressed.

Suffering of J. Roberts.

Charity of Lady Dunck.

In this Year were also imprisoned for not paying Tithes, George White, Lettice Gush, William Wade, and William Wilkins.

Tithes.

In this Year John Boy, Nehemiah Stinchcomb, Daniel Wimbball, Paul Sanders, and John Pearce, were committed to Prison for being at a Meeting, and the said John Pearce, an honest old labouring Man, died there.

Imprisonment for Meeting.

Theophila Townsend was sent to Prison by Justice George, for Preaching, and she asking him, Whether it was a Crime to direct People to turn from Ungodliness? He replied, Yes, that's enough. Some were committed to Prison, when, being taken at Meetings, they refused to give Sureties for their good Behaviour, viz. William Bowley, Richard Bowley, Amariah Drewett, Thomas Perri-man, Thomas Wickham, Thomas Jefferies, and William Bretton. Also Robert Neale, Nathanael Ogburne, and Matthew Andover, were imprisoned on Writs de Excommunicato capiendo.

Loose Answer of Justice George. Commitments of several.

Taken this Year by Distress for Meetings,

From—Richard Pritchard, John Dooding, Samuel Bishop, Levi Ware, John Curtis, George Bingham, Lydia Thurston, Nathanael Ogburne, and Samuel Edney, Goods worth
Samuel Bishop, Alice Curtis, Thomas Hill, Jonathan Russel, John Bolton, Francis Pinnell, Richard Adams, Thomas White, William Peasely, and George Motley, Goods worth

l. s. d.

14 19 6

105 2 0

120 1 6

Distresses.

Thomas Chorneck of Tewksbury was excommunicated for Absence from the National Worship.

Excommunication.

The Justices at their Sessions in the Month called January this Year, sent for Roger Cook, John Beard, and Francis Boy, tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and sent them to Prison for refusing it. And for the same Cause, Henry Engley, Thomas Monington, Nicholas Wastfield, Thomas Freeman, John Edmunds, John Elliott, Joseph Blink, John Webb, Daniel Bayley, Richard Green, Henry Biddell, Jane Elliott, Alice Cox, Anne Washburne, Anne Holland, Hannab Monington, Emma Fry, Elizabeth Langley, Anne Calice, Anne Edmunds, Joane Wager, Mary Arnold, Anne Green, and Jane James, were committed to Prison: Some of the Women had Children sucking at their Breasts, and others of them were with Child, and the Prison being out of Repair, they were much incom-

Many imprisoned for refusing to Swear.

Hard Imprisonment.

GLOUCESTER-SHIRE.
1681.

Premunired.
Distresses for
Meetings and
Absence from
the National
Worship.

moded for want of Room. The Men were afterward indicted at Sessions, for refusing the Oath, and brought in *Gilty*, and were said to be *Premunired*, though Sentence was not publickly read: Both Men and Women were recommitted to Prison. Soon after this *Henry Pontin*, *Henry Asby*, and *Ralph Langley*, were also sent to Goal for refusing to Swear.

ANNO 1682. Taken from *Samuel White* of *Morton*, by *Guy Laurence* Priest, for Tithes, Goods worth 17*l.* 5*s.*

At a Meeting at *Cirencester*, *James George* a Justice of the Peace, and others, put *Thomas Loveday* out of the Meeting, after which *Richard Bowley* pray'd, and the Justice fin'd him 20*l.* Half of which he laid on *Loveday*, though not then in the Meeting, and the Constables seized his Goods to the Value of 16*l.* 4*s.*

For a Meeting at *William Loveday's* in *Painswick*, were taken

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>William Loveday</i> , <i>John Loveday</i> , and <i>Thomas Loveday</i> , Goods worth	39	16	0
For Meetings at <i>French-Hay</i> , From <i>Thomas Hill</i> , <i>Walter Grimer</i> , <i>Abraham Atwood</i> , <i>Nebemiah Champion</i> , <i>Isaac James</i> , <i>Isaac Hathaway</i> , <i>Robert Rich</i> , <i>Richard Tipper</i> , <i>Christopher Holder</i> , <i>John James</i> , <i>Nathanael Haskins</i> , and <i>Richard Bickham</i> , Goods worth	112	10	0
For Absence from the National Worship were taken From <i>Thomas Charnock</i> , a Chest of Linen, with Brass, Pewter, Bedding, Apparel, &c. to the Value of	30	0	0
<i>Abraham Atwood</i> , <i>Francis Shipley</i> , <i>Anthony Sturge</i> , <i>John James</i> , <i>Thomas Hill</i> , <i>Richard Tipper</i> , <i>William Ward</i> , <i>Thomas Prigg</i> , <i>John Ames</i> , and <i>Mary Millett</i> , Goods worth	13	1	0
<i>Thomas Cox</i> , <i>Jane Hathaway</i> , <i>John Bett</i> , <i>Robert Rich</i> , <i>William Butcher</i> , <i>Richard Bickham</i> , <i>Robert Heidou</i> , and <i>Francis Boy</i>	15	18	0
For another Meeting at <i>French-Hay</i> , taken From <i>John Cannings</i> , <i>Thomas Morris</i> , and <i>George Pearce</i> , Goods worth	33	12	0
	244	17	0

Wickedness of
an Apparitor.

At a Meeting at *Nailsworth*, *Knowles* an Apparitor, finding *Oliver Sansom* praying, cried out *Come down Rogue*. About three Weeks after, Warrants were issued by *Richard Parsons*, Chancellor of *Gloucester*, by which were taken

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>Richard Smith</i> , <i>Robert Perkins</i> , and <i>Robert Langley</i> , Goods worth	25	6	0
For Meetings at <i>Sadbury</i> , From <i>Thomas Curtis</i> , <i>John Dooding</i> , <i>Samuel Bishop</i> , and <i>Elizabeth White</i> , who was then in Prison for the same Cause, Goods worth	10	4	0
For Meetings at <i>Stow</i> , From <i>Anthony Roberts</i> , <i>William Tidmarsh</i> , and <i>John Hiatt</i> , Goods worth	28	16	0
For Meetings at <i>King's-Weston</i> , From <i>Samuel Robins</i> , <i>William Maynard</i> , and <i>William Stringer</i> , to the Value of	8	18	0
	73	4	0

Esther

Esther Boy of *Lackinton*, occasionally visiting a Woman, one of her Friends at *Badmanton*, as they were sitting together, the Earl of *Worcester's* Clerk, suspecting a Meeting, went in, and finding only those two, was so enraged at the Disappointment, that he tore the said *Esther's* Neckcloth, bruis'd her Neck, pull'd her away, and threw her over the Cell of the Door. Thus the hungry Informer, missing his Prey, gave Vent to his Fury, by an unmanly Abuse of an innocent Woman.

ANNO 1683. On the 11th of the Month called *May* this Year, the Friends, who were Prisoners in *Glocester* Castle, met together for the Exercise of religious Worship in the Prison, for which they were all fined by *Richard Parsons* a Justice of the Peace: But most of their Houses had been so rifled before, that the Officers sought in vain to make Distress: At length finding two Cows, the Property of *William Wake*, one of the Prisoners, they made Seizure of them, being worth 6*l.* About this Time *Thomas Loveday*, aged sixty eight Years, was imprisoned eight Months for Absence from the National Worship: And *Thomas May*, *Sarah Ashbey*, *Margery Collins*, *Mary Boy*, and *Elizabeth Holborow*, had been Prisoners as long for meeting together at *Badmanton*.

Taken for Meetings at *Olveston* by Officers and Informers, without producing any Warrant,

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
From <i>John Bolton</i> , <i>Francis Pinnell</i> , <i>Richard Adams</i> , <i>John White</i> , <i>Nathanael Thurston</i> , <i>Thomas</i> <i>Sturge</i> , and <i>John Adams</i> , Timber, Cattle, Sheep, and Goods, to the Value of	113	5	0	} Distresses for Meeting.
They also took and carried away the Seats of the Meeting-house, worth	1	10	0	

114 15 0

For Meetings at <i>Frensh-Hay</i> , From <i>John James</i> , <i>Robert Rich</i> , <i>Nehemiah Champion</i> , <i>Hazekiah Cole</i> , <i>Thomas Atkins</i> , <i>John King</i> , <i>Isaac</i> <i>James</i> , <i>Jane Hathaway</i> , and <i>John Webb</i> , Goods worth	39	19	0
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For Meetings at <i>Stoke-Orchard</i> , From <i>Edward Edwards</i> , <i>Richard Allen</i> , <i>Humphry</i> <i>Overton</i> , <i>Cornelius Graffstock</i> , and <i>Margaret</i> <i>Edgington</i> , Goods worth	34	15	0
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74 14 0

On the 18th of the Month called *August*, *Richard Parsons*, Chancellor of *Glocester*, came to the Meeting-house at *Camden*, when the Doors were shut and no Person there: He, with such as attended him, burst open the Doors, and brake the Windows and Seats all to pieces, and departed with many Threats: Upon some Information of a Meeting there, he shortly after issued a Warrant, by which were taken

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
From <i>William Heyders</i> of <i>Stanway</i> , Goods and Tim- ber, worth	30	0	0	} Distresses.
<i>Gervas Harris</i> of <i>Willersby</i> , five Cows and an Horse, worth	20	0	0	
<i>Paul Heron</i> , a Cow worth	3	0	0	

53 0 0

For

**GLOCESTER-
SHIRE.**
1682.

Violence of a
disappointed
Informer.
Distresses
made for
meeting in
the Prison.

Distresses for
Meeting.

Meeting-house
broke open.

GLOCES-
TER-
SHIRE.
1683.

Mittimus of
G. Harris to
Prison.

On Sessions
Process.

Some insnair'd
at the Trial of
their Friends.

Shop-keepers
ruined.

Two recom-
mitted.

T. Town-
end's Account
of the Proceed-
ings against
her.

For Absence from the National Worship, were taken from Paul Heron, Margaret Edgington, John Edgington, and Anthony Roberts, Goods worth 2l. 5s. Gervas Harris was committed to Prison by the following Mittimus, viz.

"To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal at the Castle of Gloucester.

"WE send you herewith the Body of Gervas Harris of Willersby, in the said County, being charged before us for refusing to find Security for his Personal Appearance at the next general Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be holden for the said County, to answer such Matters whereof he stands indicted. These are therefore in his Majesty's Name to command you to receive him into your Custody, and him safely to keep till he be thence legally discharged. Given under our Hands and Seals this 27th of September 1683.

"William Juxon,
"David Warren,
"Richard Parsons."

The Cause of his Indictment, not express'd in the Mittimus, was his Absence from the National Worship, for which Cause also many others were imprisoned this Year by Sessions-Process, viz. William Bowley, Richard Bowley, Philip Gray, John Drewett, Thomas Hill, Jonathan Blanch, Thomas Meeks, John Meeks, Thomas Upton, Francis Pinnell, Joseph Tomkins, Richard Pritchard, Giles Clifford, Edward Dudge, Anne Marvson, and Hugh Wallington. And by Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, Richard Holland. About this Time also Roger Cook, John Beard, and Francis Boy, coming into the Hall at Sessions to hear the Trial of one of their Friends, were forced into the Court, had the Oath tendred them, and were sent to Prison, where they lay fourteen Months: Also Nathanael Roberts and Daniel Roberts, Brothers and Partners in Shop-keeping, after their Shop had been broken open, and much Goods taken away for Meetings, had the Oath tendred them, and were sent Prisoners to the Castle: Their House was left empty, and their Trade lost, to the very great Detriment of those conscientious young Men.

At the Sessions on the 17th of the Month called January, John Beard and Henry Ashby were recommitted to Prison for refusing the Oath then again tendred them in Court. Also Theophila Townsend was at the same Sessions discharged from her long Imprisonment: But afterward, before the Sessions ended, the Oath of Allegiance was tendred her by the Justices, and for refusing it she was sent again to Prison; from whence in a Letter dated the 29th of the same Month, she described the Proceedings of that Sessions in Manner following, viz.

"THE Persecutors wax worse and worse, and would make Friends their own Accusers; because they cannot clear themselves of what they charge them, they make them Transgressors. Several are indicted for not going to the Parish-Church, so called; and asking for their Accusers, the Clerk, Benjamin Hyett, said, I accuse you for the King and Papers do accuse you, (holding some Presentments up.) And the Justices said, 'Tis not possible for the King to prove you Guilty, but you must prove your selves Not guilty. So the Jury found Friends Guilty, when no Evidence came in against them, and one Part or Half of Friends were absent, and not in the Sight or Hearing of the Jury, and one sick and not at all in the Court, yet they proceeded to fine about twenty two of them 20l. a piece. They take no Notice of the Law, but their Wills. Justice Powel said, I broke the King's Law by Preaching. I said, I had been Prisoner two Years, and was never convicted of the Breach of any Law. POWEL, being Chairman, said, The Court was not willing to discharge me without Sureties. I said, I was discharged of that twelve Months since. CUTLER said, I was a dangerous Person, and the Court

" Court was afraid to trust me without Sureties. I said, It is a poor Business for
 " a Court of Justices to say they are afraid of such a poor weak Woman as I,
 " that have been like to die several Times since I came into the Prison; so I was
 " within these four Days, but the Lord hath raised me up, and made me able to ap-
 " pear before you, to see whether you will do me Justice or no. How do you
 " look upon me to be a dangerous Person? Do you suppose me likely to raise an
 " Army to subvert the Government? The Law says, no Person shall be deprived
 " of his Liberty unconvicted, and that I was never, for you have no Proof. They
 " made me be taken away from speaking. The Goaler speaks of a closer
 " Confinement to Friends, who several of them have been ill: One is
 " gone Home sick of a Fever. The Justices, Cutler, Powel, Dormant,
 " George, Juxon, Player, Winter, the Chancellor Parsons, and others, were on
 " the Bench: Powel spake of discharging me, but Cutler said, If they did, I
 " would be in again in a Month, and went on to fine Friends."

GLOCES-
TER-
SHIRE.
1683.

Thus far Theophila Townsend's Letter, who was a virtuous Woman, and of great Understanding, but through the Rigour of the Laws, and the Severity of the Justices, she underwent an hard and close Imprisonment several Years together, for the Cause of Religion and a good Conscience.

In this Year died Prisoners, Thomas May, Ralph Langley, and Thomas Holborow. ANNO 1684. On the 10th of the Month called June this Year, Samuel Robins was taken at a Meeting, and committed to Prison, where he lay four Months. At the same Time were also Prisoners, John Stevens, Walter Grimer, William Burton, Henry Pontin, Robert Rich, and John Bett.

3 Died Pri-
soners.
Prisoners.

On the 26th of September, John King was sent to Prison, and on the 29th, William Ward and Nathanael Hoskins.

Others also
committed.

On the 7th of October, Thomas Mason, Richard Philpot, Daniel Hayward, Thomas Allen, Richard Rogers, Margaret Skinner, Ellinor Jefferies, and Elizabeth Shepherd, were taken from a Meeting and sent to Prison. Also William Bale, William Moore, John Webb, William Butcher, and John James, were committed to Prison on an Indictment for a Month's Absence from the National Worship: And for the same Cause Richard Bowley suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 20 s.

Distress on
R. Bowley.

On the 1st of the Month called February, the said Richard Bowley being a-sleep in Bed about nine at Night, Officers broke the Door open, and two of them staid in the House all Night, and the next Day carried away Barley and Malt to the Value of

At another Time they broke open his House, and	30 l. 0 s. 0 d.
took away Malt worth	9 0 0
From John Stevens and Philip Gray, Goods worth	2 0 0
Taken also for Meetings,	
From Giles Clifford, Zachary Phillips, Nathanael Cripps,	
Grace Chester, Daniel Hayward, Thomas Baker,	
Elizabeth Samford, and Richard Skinner, Oxen,	176 18 10
Cows, Sheep, Calves, Pigs, Hay, Goods	
and Money, to the Value of	217 18 10

Distresses for
Meetings.

ANNO 1685. In this Year was taken for Tithes,
 From Thomas Hill of Winterborn, Corn worth 47 2 0
 John Trueman, John James, Robert Rich, William
 Atwood, William Ball, Daniel Packer, and Joseph
 Cannings } 25 15 0
 Francis Boy, Christopher Young, Thomas Perryman,
 John Adams, Francis Pinnell, and John Bolton,
 Corn worth } 32 14 0

Distress for
Tithes.

GLOUCESTER-SHIRE.
1685.

	Brought over	l.	s.	d.
		105	11	0
From Andrew Williams, Nathanael Thurston, Jenkin Hopkin, Richard Bowley, William Bowley, John Lyfellers, and Thomas Edwards, to the Value of	}	43	18	0
		149	9	0

J. Russell imprisoned.

In the same Year Jonathan Russel of Littleton, suffered Imprisonment for refusing to pay Tithes.

For a Meeting at Thornbury, on the 5th of the Month called July, were taken

Distresses for Meetings.

From Edward Parker, Thomas Farr, John Clark, William Pitcher, Edward Hill, John Thurston, and John Gainer, Goods worth	}	26	19	0
For a Meeting at the House of Thomas Daniel in Stinchcomb, they took from him Corn, Hay, and Goods, worth	}	30	0	0
And from Robert White, Thomas Alway, Edward Parker, John Coxley, and Jacob Hewlings, to the Value of	}	38	5	4
		95	4	4

Distresses for Absence from the National Worship.

Taken for Absence from the National Worship, From the aforesaid Thomas Daniel, Malt, Household Goods, and Money, worth	}	28	13	0
And from Matthew Freeman of Stone, for his Wife's Absence, 100l. worth of Goods, which he, being no Quaker, redeemed by compounding with the Sheriff, for	}	26	0	0
From Thomas Loveday jun. Goods worth which the Officers sold for 10l.		60	19	0
John Mason, William Loveday, Roger Townsend, and Thomas Stinchcomb,	}	86	8	0
Richard Wilkins Goods worth 120l. which they sold for 30l. They took also out of his Wife's Pocket by Force in Money 6l.	}	126	0	0
Richard Morril, Amariah Drewett, John Stevens, Richard Bowley, and William Hibbs, Goods worth	}	90	10	0
Jenkin Hopkin, Joseph Heathcot, and Charles Allen		42	15	0
		461	5	0

Unjust Extortion.

When the Bayliffs seized Charles Allen's Goods, a Servant of his having Money in his Breeches, which hung in one of the Rooms, he went to take it out, which one of the Bayliffs observing, and threatening to shoot him, extorted it from him by force.

Taken for Absence from the National Worship,

H. Riddall died a Prisoner.

From Richard Bowley, Richard Skinner, Thomas Mason, Giles King, and Samuel Sheers, Goods worth	}	2	17	0
--	---	---	----	---

About this Time Elizabeth Parker and Elizabeth Sanford were imprisoned by a Sessions Process, and Henry Riddall, an ancient Man, of Gloucester, died a Prisoner.

Taken more, on the Conventicle Act,

From Daniel Parker, Daniel Ware, Joseph Cannings, Joseph Glover, and John Grining, Goods worth	}	18	2	8
--	---	----	---	---

Carried over 18 2 8

CHAP. 15. of the People called QUAKERS.

227

From Edward Parker, John Gainer, John Simonds, Thomas Davis, Thomas Soley, and Paul Heron, Brought over 18 2 8
Goods to the Value of 65 5 0

GLOUCESTER SHIRE. 1685.

83 7 8

Many others were imprisoned for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, viz. Hezekiah Cole, John Trueman, John Cooksey, Thomas Farr, John Thurston, Edward Parker, Daniel Parker, William Pitcher, John Black, Thomas Mabbett, Joseph Cannings, Edward Hill, Charles Russel, Thomas Russel, Joseph Glover, John Gainer, Joseph Player, Jonathan Blanch, John White, John Young, John Mabbett, John Merrick, Thomas Daniel, Thomas Alway, and Robert White.

Many sent to Prison.

Richard Bowley and Amariah Drowett, for refusing to contribute toward the Charge of the County Militia, had Malt and Hay taken from them to the Value of 4^l.

Militia.

ANNO 1686. A List of the Prisoners called Quakers, who were discharged out of Prison in this County, at the Quarter Sessions held in the Month called April this Year, by Virtue of King James the Second's Proclamation, is as follows, viz.

1686.

Out of the County Goal fifty six, namely,

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Theophila Townsend | Richard Holland | Hugh Wallington |
| Thomas Hill | Thomas Meekes | John Meeks |
| Thomas Upton | John Beard | Joseph Tomlins |
| John Clifford | Zachary Phillips | Edward Dodge |
| Anne Marwson | Nathanael Deane | Walter Grimer |
| William Burton | John Bolton | Henry Pontin |
| Robert Rich | John Bett | John King |
| William Ward | Nathanael Haskins | Thomas Mason |
| Richard Philpot | Daniel Hayward | Richard Rogers |
| Thomas Allen | Margaret Skinner | Ellinor Jefferies |
| Elizabeth Shepherd | William Ball | William Butcher |
| William Moore | John James | John Webb |
| John Cooksey | John Thurston | Edward Parker |
| Thomas Mabbett | Joseph Player | John White |
| John Mabbett | John Merrick | Thomas Daniel |
| Thomas Alway | Robert White | Elizabeth Baker |
| Elizabeth Ford | Jonathan Russel | Matthew Andrews |
| Robert Neale | Nathanael Ogburne | George White |
| Henry Ashby | Thomas Loveday sen. | |

A List of Prisoners released by K. James the 2d. his Proclamation.

And out of the City Prison fifteen, viz.

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| John Edmunds | Thomas Monington | Thomas Freeman |
| And Anne his Wife | And Hannah his Wife | Alice Cox |
| Richard Green | Jane James | Emma Fry |
| Henry Engley | Daniel Bailey | Ellinor Calice |
| And Elizabeth his Wife | Joane Wager | Anne Holland |

ANNO 1689. After the Accession of King William and Queen Mary to the Throne, a Poll-Tax was levied by Act of Parliament, wherein Preachers were charged for their Stipends or Pay. Several of the People called Quakers were assessed as Preachers upon that Act, but as they received no Stipend or Pay, they thought it a Dishonour to their Profession of a free Ministry,

Poll-Tax.

GLOCES-
TER-
SHIRE.
1689.

Distresses on
the Poll-Tax
Act.

Ministry, to make such Payments, which for that Reason they refused; and several suffered Distress of their Goods for such Refusal, viz.

Thomas Hill, John Cooksey, Joseph Cannings, John
Curtis, John Dooding, Thomas Morris, and
Walter Grimer

l. s. d.
8 12 0

Having thus related the Sufferings in this County, we proceed to *Hampshire* and the Isle of *Wight*.

C H A P. XVI.

H A M P-
SHIRE.
1653.

H A M P S H I R E and ISLE of WIGHT,

ANNO 1653.

TAKEN for Tithes, from							
	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
<i>John Day</i> of the Isle of <i>Wight</i> , for	3	0	0	demande	12	0	0
<i>Robert Biddell</i> , for	1	4	0		4	0	0
<i>John Page</i> of <i>Berriton</i> , for	3	0	0		16	0	0
<i>Robert Reeves</i> of <i>Swanmore</i> , for	9	5	0		15	15	0
	<hr/>				<hr/>		
For	16	9	0	Taken	47	15	0

Persecution of
T. Robertson
and A. Rigg.

ANNO 1655. On the 18th of the Month called *July*, *Thomas Robertson* and *Ambrose Rigg*, being at *Basingstoke*, were told, that the Priest of that Parish had uttered several invective Speeches against them; they, desirous to clear themselves, sent to the Priest to come to them, but received this short Answer, *I will not come: You may expect to be shortly in Prison*. They nevertheless held a Meeting in a Friend's Yard, to which many of the Town resorted. As one of them was Preaching, the Priest, with a Justice of the Peace, and some others, came, and in much Anger demanded, *What a Tumult is here? By what Authority do you speak here?* The Friends answered, *Our Authority is from the Lord*. The Justice answered, *I have Authority to try you*; and so tendred them the Oath of Abjuration, and for refusing to Swear, sent them to Prison, where they were kept asunder: After which they examined them separately, and took away their Money, Bible, Inkhorns, Knives, and Papers, but next Morning return'd their Money: On the third Day the Justice, with Officers, came to the Prison, and ask'd them, *whether they were not whipt in Kent?* for, said he scoffingly, *I know you will not lie*. They answered him *No*. Nevertheless he caused them to be stript, that he might see their Shoulders. This Usage seem'd on purpose to affront and deride them. After this he again tendred them the Oath, and continued them in Prison, strictly charging that none of their Friends should come near them. After fifteen Weeks they were set at Liberty by an Order of Sessions. *Robert Hodgson* coming to visit them, was not suffered. He then went to a Meeting at the House of *William Knight*, and there preached. As he was speaking, a Justice of the Peace came in, and called out, *Where's the*

Also of R.
Hodgson.

the Preacher? The Woman of the House answered, *Here is a Friend of mine.* The Justice then said to Robert, *Whence come you?* He answered, *From Reading.* The Justice said, *What do you here?* He answered, *I came to visit my Friends in Prison.* The Justice replied, *You shall go and see them:* And thereupon tendred him the Oath, and sent him instantly to Goal, having first rifled his Pockets, and taken away his Letters. He was detained there sixteen Weeks.

HAMP-
SHIRE,
&c.
1655.

ANNO 1656. *Humphry Smith* having been at a Meeting in *John Read's* House near *Ringwood*, *William Bayly* and *Anthony Mellidge*, Travellers, tarried there with him: They were sent for by a Justice, who sent them to Goal: Their *Mittimus* was thus, viz.

“ *Southampton, fs.*

“ I SEND you herewith the Bodies of *Humphry Smith*, of *Cowborne* in the County of *Hartford*; *Anthony Mellidge*, of *Lime* in the County of *Dorset*; and *William Bayly* of _____ for that they have been charged before me with several Misdemeanours by them committed at *Poulmar* in the Parish of *Ringwood*, and for that they refused to find Sureties for their Appearance at the next general Affizes to be held for this County, and in the mean Time to be of the good Behaviour.

Mittimus of
H. Smith,
A. Mellidge,
and W. Bay-
ly, to Prison.

“ These are therefore to require you to receive them the said *Humphry Smith*, *Anthony Mellidge*, and *William Bayly*, into your Custody, and them safely keep in your Common Goal, until they shall be delivered by due Course of Law, and hereof fail you not. Given under my Hand and Seal the 27th Day of February 1657.

“ *John Bulkley.*”

The Place of *William Bayly's* Residence was left out of the Warrant, because he was born in the Parish where he then was: Nor was the *Mittimus* true in saying, *they were charged with Misdemeanours*, for no Body had accused them of any. At the next Affizes they were sent to the House of Correction, and kept there fourteen Weeks, till discharged by Order of a Committee of Parliament.

In this Year *Ambrose Rigg*, for uttering a Christian Exhortation to the People in the Place of publick Worship at *Southampton*, was sent to Prison. For the same Cause *Ellen Embree* and *Anne Herjent* were fined 5*l.* each, and for Non-payment were kept in the House of Correction seven Weeks; where *John Cannon* for the like Fine was also detained five Months. *Mary Spier* suffered ten Months Imprisonment for reproving the Priest of *Basingstoke*: *Stephen Bevis*, for exhorting the People at *Southwick* to Repentance, was imprisoned in the House of Correction at *Winchester* thirteen Weeks.

A. Rigg and
others perse-
cuted for
Preaching.

James Potter of *Baghurst*, for reading a Paper of Christian Advice to the People, after Sermon, in the Steeple-house there, was committed to *Winchester* Goal till the Affizes; where the Cause of his Commitment appearing insufficient, he ought to have been released; but the Court took Occasion against him for appearing with his Hat on, fined him 5*l.* and sent him again to Prison, where he lay two Years and two Months longer.

J. Potter im-
prison'd

John Wigg of *Preston-Candover*, and *Richard Wigg*, for not paying Tithes, were imprisoned at *Basingstoke*.

Fin'd for his
Hat.
Tithes.

Thomas Murford and *Katharine Evans*, for meeting with their Friends in the Isle of *Wight*, after many Abuses from the rude People there, were banished the Island. And for Meetings in the same Island, *John Day* and *Winifred Newton* were imprisoned in *Winchester* Goal, and at the next Sessions the former was sent to the House of Correction, and the latter acquitted.

Banishment.
Imprisonment.

ANNO 1658. *William Baker* and *Richard Baker*, for speaking against the Priest of *Bramshott*, respecting an exorbitant Seizure of *Thomas Biddle's* Goods for Tithe, were imprisoned twenty four Weeks, during which Time two Sessions were held, and nothing laid to their Charge. At length they were released.

Sundry Impri-
sonments and
their Causes.

H A M P-
SHIRE,
&c.
1658.

released by order of a Committee of Parliament: As was also *Elizabeth Streater*, who had been twenty one Weeks in *Winchester* Goal for some Words she had spoken to a Priest on the Highway. *Editb Tizard* suffered nine Weeks Imprisonment for speaking to the People in the Place of publick Worship at *Southampton*. *Daniel Baker*, for the like Cause, was sent to *Winchester* Goal, and at the Sessions was removed to the House of Correction, where he was detain'd nine Weeks. At the same Time *George Henderson* was also imprisoned there.

William Knight of *Basingstoke*, for visiting his Friends in Prison there, was confined in the same Goal thirteen Weeks.

Barbarous
Treatment of
A. Rigg and
others.

Ambrose Rigg, as he was going to visit his Friends in Prison at *Southampton*, was seized on by a Constable and other Officers, who pull'd him down Stairs, took him by the Throat, set him on a Cowle-Staff, from which they let him fall, then dragg'd him by the Feet, with his Back on the Ground, to the Cage, pulling the Hair off his Head, and tearing his Clothes. After this he was by the Mayor's Order whipt in the Market-place, then was he thrown down backward into a Wheelbarrow, carried so up a Part of the Street, then thrown into a Dung-Cart, and so sent away from Tithing to Tithing, and threatned, that if he came again, he should be whipt twice as much, burnt on the Shoulder, and banished the Land. Most barbarous was this Usage of an innocent Man, for no other Offence than performing the Christian Duty of visiting those that were in Prison. The same Person at another Time, visiting a sick Friend, was taken and carried before two Justices, who, because he refused to pull off his Hat at their Command, sent him to Prison, where he lay five Weeks.

Philip Bence and his Brother were put into the Gatehouse at *Winchester*, and kept there all Night, for visiting their Friends in Prison. Also *Edward Jessop*, for carrying a Letter from one of his Friends in *Winchester* Goal to a Justice of the Peace, was sorely beaten, kickt and abused by the Justice's Servants.

Anne Potter of *Bagburst* was imprisoned at *Cheney Court* Prison near *Winchester* twenty eight Weeks, for Tithes; and her Brother *Richard Potter*, for the same Tithes of 5*l.* Value, had his Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 17*l.* *Richard Deane* and *William Pace* were also this Year imprisoned for not paying Tithes.

Tithes.

ANNO 1659. *Thomas Welsted*, for a Demand of 3*l.* for Tithes, had his Goods taken away to the Value of 12*l.* 10*s.* And in this Year several Persons for Claims of 1*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* for Steeple-house Rates, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 11*l.* 12*s.*

ANNO 1660. In this Year were taken

Distress for
Tithes.

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From	<i>Henry Streater</i> for 4 <i>l.</i> demanded for Tithes, three Mares and two Cows worth	42	0	0
	<i>Robert Biddle</i> , for a Demand of 16 <i>s.</i> two Horses and two Cows worth	15	0	0
		57	0	0

Imprison-
ments.

John Bishop of *Gatcomb* in the Isle of *Wight*, a poor labouring Man, having a large Family dependent on his Labour, was imprisoned in *Winchester* Goal for Tithes, twenty Weeks.

Persecution of
J. Pigeon and
his Brother.

On the 10th of October, *John Pigeon* of *Crawley*, on an Information of a Meeting at his House, was brought before the Justices, who required Bond that no more such Meetings should be held there: This he refused, but told them, if any were he would give them timely Notice, that they might hear and see what was said and done: This not satisfying them, they tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, and upon his Refusal to take it, committed him to the County Goal. About a Month after, *Samuel Pigeon*, his Brother, who directed his Affairs in his Absence, was also sent to Prison for the same Cause; and the Care of his House being then left to his Wife, two Lads, and a Labourer, the Informers

Informers beat one of the Lads unmercifully, which so terrified the others that they left the House; which the Informers plunder'd, carried away in Carts and on their Backs the Household Goods, burnt many Loads of his Fuel and Timber, making great Fires near the House, and exercising *Revelling, Drunkenness*, and other wicked Practices, a Crew of disorderly Fellows resorting thither for that Purpose: They utterly spoiled a new-planted Orchard, plucking up the young Apple-Trees, and other Plants by the Roots, and made such Havock of the poor Man's Estate, that his Damage was computed to be at least 500*l*. All this was done without any Colour of Law; and when the Informers were asked, *How they could justify such Actions?* they immediately answered, *We have him fast in Prison, and shall take care to keep him there secure from prosecuting us:* And, it seems, the Justices, who knew of and conniv'd at these Actions, were of the same Mind, for they fin'd the Goaler 5*l*. only for giving the Prisoner the Liberty of a little fresh Air, an Indulgence commonly granted to others in his Custody.

HAMP-
SHIRE,
&c.
1660.

Their Sub-
stance spoiled
by Informers.

On the 11th of the Month called *January*, *Ambrose Rigg*, travelling on Horseback, was carried before the Lieutenant of the County, who ordered him to be stript and search'd, sent away his Mare by a Soldier, kept him on the Guard that Night, and next Day sent him to *Winchester*, where, after four Days Confinement in the Marshal's House, the Oath of Allegiance was tendered him by some Justices, who, upon his refusing it, committed him to the County Goal, where he lay above four Months.

A. Rigg
seized, and
imprisoned
for refusing
to swear.

On the 13th *Henry Streater*, *Robert Biddle*, *William Valler*, *Edmund Heath*, *Henry Wake*, *Nicholas Eedes*, *William Blanshott*, *Robert Terry*, *Henry Elliott*, *Nicholas Lamy*, *John Lack*, *John Wigg*, *John Page*, *John Marshall*, *James Complin*, *John Howard*, and *James Collier*, were seized at a Meeting in *Alton*, dragg'd by Force through the Streets to an Inn, kept there by Soldiers three Days and Nights, then put into a Waggon, and carried to *Alresford*, where they were kept at an Inn all Night, and not suffered to have any Beds: Next Morning they were conducted to *Winchester*, and committed to the Marshal's Custody, by whom they were carried before some Justices of the Peace, and they, after tendering them the Oath, committed them to Prison.

Ill Usage and
imprisonment
of 17 others.

On the 17th *William Buckland*, going to visit his Sister, was taken by a Constable, and carried before the Justices at *Winchester*, who, more like wanton Boys than grave Magistrates, made the innocent Man a Subject of their Scorn and Derision, telling him, *if he would pull off his Hat they would set him at Liberty:* At length they tendered him the Oath, and sent him to Goal.

Derision and
Imprisonment
of W. Buck-
land.

On the 17th of the Month called *February*, *William Rutter*, taken at a Meeting in *Portsmouth*, was committed by the Mayor to a close stinking Prison, in which through Coldness of the Place, and want of Air, he fell sick and died within a Month.

Death of
W. Rutter
in Prison.

About this Time *William Gill*, *William Valler*, and *Elizabeth Streater*, for refusing to pay toward the Charge of the County Militia, were imprisoned at *Winchester* fifteen Days, and afterward had their Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 8*l*. 5*s*.

Militia.

ANNO 1661. In this Year were taken for Tithes,

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
From <i>William Valler</i> of <i>Heathly</i> , for 8 <i>l.</i> demanded,	}	100	0	0	<i>Distresses for Tithes.</i>
twenty seven Head of Cattle worth					
<i>William Gill</i> of the same, for 2 <i>l.</i> demanded,	}	27	0	0	
Cattle, Horses, and Hogs, worth					
<i>Edmund Heath</i> of the same, for 2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> de-	}	21	0	0	
manded, Cattle to the Value of					
For Demands of 12 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	Taken	148	0	0	

Distresses for
Tithes.

Henry Streater of *Bramshott*, was taken from a Meeting at his Brother's House in *Alton*, and committed to *Winchester* Goal, where he died on the 1st of

Death of
H. Streater.
of

HAMP-
SHIRE,
&c.
1662.

Death of
T. Willis.

of the Month called *April* this Year. A faithful Man, who, after a long Course of manifold Sufferings for his religious Testimony, laid down his Head in Peace.

ANNO 1662. On the 14th of *September*, *Thomas Willis* of *Totton*, taken at a Meeting, was by the Mayor of *Southampton* committed to Prison, where he died after about seven Months Confinement, contentedly laying down his Life for his Constancy in Religion.

That our Readers may form a just *Idea* of the Suffering of this People in this County, let them peruse the following

“ *Transcript of a Letter, written by some of the Prisoners to the*
“ *Justices of the Peace at Winchester Sessions, dated the 13th of*
“ *the Month called January 1662.*

Transcript of
a Letter from
the Prisoners
to the Jus-
tices.

“ WE are Men that do fear the Lord, and do also truly desire Peace
“ with and amongst all Men, amongst whom we have likewise behaved
“ our selves in Peace and Quietness, labouring with our Hands in the Things
“ that are honest, whereby to provide for our selves and Families, continuing
“ also in Carefulness therein, that though we suffer in Body and Estate, that
“ neither we nor they might be chargeable to any; neither have we wilfully
“ provoked the Officers and Rulers against us, but in Humility, in that we
“ dare not but obey the Lord that made us, in waiting upon him, for the which
“ only, and for no other Cause on our Parts, we have already suffered before
“ this Imprisonment, so much Cruelty and inhuman Usage, that several Sheets of
“ Paper might be filled therewith, though it would not be easily to be believed,
“ that *Englishmen* should so unmercifully be abused by Soldiers and other Men
“ of their own Nation, as hath been daily inflicted upon us in the Town of *Portf-*
“ *mouth*, the Place of our Abode and Habitations, where, for the Space of one
“ Year and an Half, few First-days therein but we were by the rudest Soldiers
“ that they could chuse for that Purpose, and such like Officers, either haled
“ out of our Meetings, before the Law was made against it, or beat forth
“ with much Violence, or thrust or beat with Muskets along the Streets, or
“ punched or knocked with the great End of Muskets, and so with Violence
“ drove forth at the Gates, from our own *Habitations*, and then were hindred
“ from coming again to our Employments, or most if not all of these Things
“ were daily inflicted on us, with many more cruel Beatings and bruising of our
“ Bodies than is here written, and our Goods have been spoiled, and some
“ carried away, and our Windows battered down, even after we were beat
“ and turned out as aforesaid; and such First-days as we escaped these Things,
“ we were shut up together in our own House, and armed Men set on every
“ Side to keep us in, both Men and Women, in a most evil and unseemly
“ Manner, and Food denied to be brought in unto us, and sometimes our
“ Food that was sent us taken away by the Soldiers, and at other Times we
“ were some of us kept in several nasty Holes, which is so bad, that most
“ People esteem it an hard Thing for the worst Felons or Offenders to be
“ kept there a few Days, where we were constrained to lie several Weeks,
“ having also both Friends and our own Wives and Relations, yea, and Food
“ it self, and needful Things then kept also from us: And in *Felton's* Hole the
“ Waves of the Sea have so beat in on one of us in Winter Season, that he
“ has stood in Water up to the Ankles, for the which Things the Lord God
“ hath and will visit them that were the Actors thereof.

“ And when we had, for the Space of one Year and an Half, in much Pa-
“ tience suffered many such Things as aforesaid, then did the Rulers of the
“ Nation add Affliction to our long grieved Souls, by making a Law, that
“ not above five might depart from their Habitations, and assemble together
“ under Pretence of Worship; the which, though our Meetings were not in
“ Pretence, but really intended, and absolutely for, the Worship of God, yet
“ notwithstanding

“ notwithstanding, though we were not this Time (for which we yet suffer)
 “ the Number of *five* that departed from our Habitations, and so not Trans-
 “ gressors of the Law, as we made it appear unto the Mayor and Rulers that
 “ committed us; neither could they themselves affirm and prove that we had
 “ therein transgressed that Law; yet notwithstanding they imposed the utmost
 “ Penalty upon us, which in the said Law is mentioned against them that
 “ transgress it, and so kept us full *three Months* in Prison in that Town, and
 “ three Weeks more over than the three Months. And then in our *Mittimus*
 “ they did not so much as deal justly with us, but writ therein, that we were
 “ lately taken at a Meeting, as though it had been very lately indeed, and
 “ thereby have sought to conceal the long Imprisonment we had then suffered
 “ for the said Meeting therein signified, and concerning which we have also
 “ suffered three Weeks more in this Prison of *Winchester* this 13th of the
 “ Eleventh Month 1662.

HAMP-
SHIRE,
&c.
1662.

“ And these our Hardships, and unreasonable Sufferings, and grievous
 “ Abuses, do even cause a Cry for Mercy, and may claim Compassion in
 “ Equity, as well as Justice, from you, who in Justice ought to shew Mercy
 “ in relieving the Oppressed, who have suffered all these Things, only on Ac-
 “ count of some Difference in Opinion in Matters of Religion, or Matter in
 “ us of Conscience to God, wherein also the King's late Declaration offereth
 “ us Relief, the Benefit whereof we shall gladly receive; but if otherwise,
 “ then we say, *the Will of the Lord be done*, whom we dare not but follow,
 “ though it should be to the Loss of all.

John Austin
William Buckland
Nicholas Complin

Jonas Goff
Thomas Cozens
William Jennings.

At the same Time was a Prisoner also together with them in *Winchester* Goal,
Humphry Smith, sent thither by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

“ Southton *js*.

“ To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal at Winton, or to his
 sufficient Deputy, Greeting.

“ YOU shall herewithal receive the Body of *Humphry Smith*, who was
 “ taken at an unlawful Meeting at *Alton*, being a Ringleader and one of
 “ the Chief of the *Quakers*, who travelleth the Country to seduce the People,
 “ and disturb his Majesty's Peace, contrary to the Law in that Behalf made
 “ and provided. These are therefore in his Majesty's Name to will and re-
 “ quire you forthwith, that you receive the Body of him the said *Humphry*
 “ *Smith* into your Custody, and him to detain in your said Goal until he shall
 “ be delivered from thence by due Order of Law. Given under our Hands
 “ and Seals at *Alton*, the 14th Day of *October*, in the thirteenth Year of his
 “ Majesty's Reign, *Anno Dom. 1661*.

Mittimus of
H. Smith to
Prison.

“ John Norton,
 “ *Humphry Bennett*.”

He was kept under close Confinement, and never called to answer at any
 Affize or Sessions, nor suffered to go out at any Time, and his Friends were
 frequently denied the Liberty of visiting him, until at length he died there on
 the 4th Day of the Month called *May* 1663. This good Man had a Fore-
 sight of his Death, and said to some of his Friends, that *he had a narrow*
Path to pass through: And more than once signified, *he saw he should be im-*
prisoned, and that it might cost him his Life. In the Time of his Sicknes he ex-
 pressed himself thus, *My Heart is filled with the Power of God: It is good for a*

Account of
H. Smith's
Death.

HAMP-
SHIRE,
&c.
1662.

22 Prisoners
at Southamp-
ton.

Others at
Winchester.

Women in
Bridewell.

Tithes.

Many impri-
soned for a
supposed Meet-
ing.

Death of
N. Complin.

Prosecutions
for Tithes.

A Collection of
Prosecutions.

Man at such a Time as this, to know the Lord to be his Friend. And at another Time, Lord, thou hast sent me forth to do thy Will, and I have been faithful unto thee in my small Measure, which thou hast committed to me; but if thou wilt yet try me farther, thy Will be done. Also he said, I am the Lord's, let him do what he will. And when near his Departure, he pray'd thus, O Lord, bear the inward Sighs and Groans of thine Oppressed, and deliver my Soul from the Oppressor. Hear me, O Lord, uphold and preserve me. I know that my Redeemer liveth. Thou art strong and mighty, O Lord. He also prayed, that God would deliver his People from their Oppressors. And for those that had been convinced by his Ministry, that God would be their Teacher. He continued sweetly still and sensible unto the End, and died in perfect Peace.

There had been committed to Southampton Goal in this and the two preceeding Years, George Embree, Thomas Jacob, John Cannons, John Dornfield, Leonard Williams, William Portsmouth, Thomas May, Thomas Cleverly, John Tugwell, John Prangnell, Thomas Willis, Richard Blandy, George Jackman, Henry Poynter, Jonathan Hopkins, Michael Foster, Roger Curtis, Thomas Cowdry, Robert Wastfield, Alexander Pyott, William Boddicoat, and William Pasmore: Of whom, sixteen were indicted at the Sessions, on the 11th of the Month called January 1662, for being at an unlawful Assembly. But the Court having Reason to think that Indictment insufficient, refused to proceed upon it: But, instead of that, fined the Prisoners for a pretended Contempt of the Court in appearing with their Hats on, and so sent them back to Prison, where they lay long after. There had been also imprisoned in Winton Goal, Thomas Ham, Stephen Glas, Henry Mullins, William Knight, and John Bishop.

In this Year also, James Potter was prosecuted in the Exchequer for Tithes: And Ellen Embree, Elizabeth Cole, Honour Antram, Avice Ford, Ursula Tugwell, Rebecca Culverden, Mary Pyott, and Thomasin Blinston, were committed to Bridewell for refusing to take the Oaths.

ANNO 1663. William Gill of Hedley, for Tithe of nine Acres of Land, had taken from him three Cows worth 17l.

On the last Day of the Month called May, George Jackman, John Bishop, Philip Bence, Robert Mercer, James Miller, Thomas Munner, Martin Bence, Edward Pritchett, John Hodder, Nicholas Complin, John Rogers, James Puckeridge, and James Hide, being some of them on the Road, some in a Friend's House, others in an Orchard, and some in other Places near Ringwood, were taken up by an officious Constable, with an Officer and Soldiers, without any Warrant, and being carried before two Justices of the Peace, were by them committed to Prison, the Justices alledging, that though they had not met, there was reason to believe they intended to meet: Thus they stretched the Law to the Punishment of Mens supposed Intentions who had not actually transgressed: At the next Assizes they were fined 10l. each, and continued under close Confinement above half a Year after, when, by the Goaler's Favour, they obtained some Liberty, but were Prisoners at large several Years, in which State Nicholas Complin died, and others of them continued till released by the King's Letters Patent in 1672.

On the 10th of the Month called August, John Hounsam was committed to Prison, and while there had his Goods taken away to the Value of 20l. for the Tithe of one Year for a Farm of but 12l. Yearly Rent. Two Days after Josiab Wickham for 30s. demanded for Tithes, was sent to Prison, where he continued several Years.

ANNO 1664. Thomas Walter of Waltham, and Thomas Penford a poor Blacksmith, having a Wife and three Children, whose Support depended on his Labour, for refusing to pay a Church-Rate, so called, were by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo committed to Winchester Goal on the 3d of October, where, after three Years and an Half Imprisonment, Thomas Penford died; the Demand on him was but 3d. and the other continued much longer in Prison. For the same Cause also the said Thomas Walter, Mary Lunn, and John Bishop, suffered Distress of Goods for small Sums demanded. In the same Year also,

also, the same *Thomas Walter*, for a Demand of 3*l.* for Tithes, had taken from him four Cows, two Horses, several Hogs, Boards, Wood, and other Goods, to the Value of 50*l.* *William Valler*, for a Claim of 6*l.* for Tithe, had nineteen head of Cattle taken from him worth 90*l.* And *William Gill*, for Tithe of but 20*s.* Value, suffered Distress of four Cows worth 12*l.* Exorbitant were these Seizures, whereby they took 152*l.* for only 10*l.* demanded.

H A M P.
SHIRE,
&c.
1664.

Exorbitant
Seizures.
Imprisonments
for Meeting.

In this and the next preceding Year were imprisoned at Southampton, for their attending religious Meetings, *George Embree*, *Thomas May*, *Thomas Cowdry*, *Richard Blandy*, *Alexander Pyott*, *Henry Poynter*, *Peter Shaply*, *John Martin*, *John Pragnell*, *Peter Barger*, *Elizabeth Cole*, *Ellen Embree*, *Grace Fletcher*, *Joyce Manners*, *John Dornford*, *Thomas Jacob*, and *Richard Crowder*: Also *James Hunt*, and *Richard Crowder*.

ANNO 1665. On the 19th of October this Year, *Elizabeth Streater* was prosecuted in the Exchequer for Tithes, and committed to Winchester Goal.

Tithes.

ANNO 1667. On the 30th of the Month called April this Year, *John Bishop* of Gatcomb in the Isle of Wight, having been prosecuted to an Outlawry for Tithes, at the Suit of *Thomas Pettis* Priest, was committed to Prison, and continued there near six Years.

Long Imprison-
ments.

ANNO 1668. *Richard Potter* of Bagburst, for a Demand of 6*l.* 19*s.* for Tithes, had Goods taken from him worth 20*l.* In this Year also *Nicholas Eedes* of Froyle, was committed to the County Goal on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo.

Imprisonments
by a Writ de
Excom. Cap.

ANNO 1670. *William Jennings* of Rumsey, was committed to the Common Goal of this County, on the 20th of the Month called July, on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo. On the 3d of the same Month *Nicholas Gates* was much abused by the Servants of a Justice, who came to a Meeting at the House of *Nicholas Eedes* of Froyle, and caused the Friends to be pull'd out of the Place, and then proceeded to fine them; Distresses were soon after made, by which were taken

W. Jennings
by a like Writ.

From *Nicholas Gates*, *Thomas Bullock*, *Roger Gates*,
John Marshall, *Robert Terry*, *Richard Chander*,
ler, and *Andrew Russel*, Goods worth
Joane Sley, *Joane Carrell*, *Richard Hall*, *George*
Vilder, *John Inwood*, *Thomas Stridwick*, and
Peter Bayly, Goods worth

l.	s.	d.
12	15	0
2	12	6
15	7	6

Fines for
Meeting.

On the 10th of the same Month was a Meeting at *Moses Neave's* in Alton, for which his Goods were distrained to the Value of 30*l.* For some Months after the Meetings in that Town were molested by Order of the Justices, and those who met were not suffered to assemble in the Meeting-house, but constrained to keep without Doors in all Weathers, which they did, through many Abuses, with singular Patience and Constancy.

M. Neave
distrain'd.

Constrained to
meet without
Doors.

On the 28th of September, the Mayor of Southampton sent Constables to a Meeting at the House of *George Embree*; they took eleven Men and several Women, whom they brought before him and another Justice: They took Occasion against the Men about their Hats, and sent them to a nasty stinking Prison, where they were kept six Days. They fin'd *John Ford* for himself, his Wife, and nine others: They also fin'd *George Embree* 20*l.* for his House, and granted Warrants, by which their Goods were taken away to the Value of 36*l.* 10*s.*

Imprisonments
and Fines.

On the 29th of November, the Wife of *Samuel Burgis* of Brimpton in Berkshire, was buried in a Burying-Ground of the People called Quakers, at Bagburst. The Priest of that Parish, whose Name was *Woodward*, informed a Justice, procured a Warrant, came with several Attendants, and took an Account of their Names. A Woman spake a few Words at the Grave, whom he charged his Attendants to take into Custody, which they refused: This angered him,

A Burial
deem'd a
Conventicle.

H. A. M. P.
SHIRE,
&c.
1670.

An hard An-
swer of a
persecuting
Priest.

Prisoners re-
leased.

Exchequer
Process.

Excessive
Spoil.

Imprisonment.

Inhuman Plun-
der.

him, and he gave them many Threats. Upon his Report to the Justices, they laid a Fine on several of the Friends for being at a Conventicle, and shortly after they suffered Distress of their Goods, viz. *Richard Potter, Thomas May,* and *Samuel Burgis*, to the Value of 25*l.* 6*s.*

The said *Samuel Burgis* dwelling in *Berkshire*, the Justices sent a Certificate to Justice *Kingmill* in that County, who gave his Warrant for Distress, which *Thomas Worrall* Priest of *Brimpton*, where *Samuel* dwelt, was very officious to execute, and sent his Man to see it delivered to the Constable: And when the Constable pleaded with the Priest, alledging that *Burgis* was in Prison, for he had been Prisoner a Year and an Half at *Reading*, and only obtained Leave to go to his Wife's Burial, and that his Wife being dead, if they took away his Goods, his Children might become a Charge to the Parish, telling him, that *he who was Minister of the Parish, ought to be a good Example of Meekness and Forbearance.* The Priest replied, *he did not care for that, he would make it cost them 5*l.* a Man, if they did not make Distress,* which was done very rigorously, for they took away all his Cows, and seiz'd a Mare of his coming laden from Market, nor would they suffer his Servants to go Home with her, but forced them to unload, and hired another in her stead. Thus this persecuting Priest promoted the Ruin of his Neighbour.

About this Time, for refusing to pay toward the Charge of the *Militia*, were taken,

		l.	s.	d.
Distress for the Militia.	From <i>Elizabeth Streater</i> of <i>Bramshott</i> , Cattle worth	7	0	0
	<i>William Valler</i> of <i>Heathly</i> , Cattle to the Value of	9	0	0
		16	0	0

The same Persons in this and the next Year, for Tithes of 31*l.* 8*s.* Value, had Goods taken from them worth 219*l.* 2*s.*

ANNO 1672. In this Year *Philip Bence, Robert Messer, Martin Bence, Thomas Manner, John Rogers, James Puckeridge, Edward Pritchett, John Bishop,* and *James Miller*, were released out of Prison in this County by the King's Letters Patent for the general discharging of the said People.

ANNO 1674. *Nicholas Eedes* and *William Newman*, both of *Froyle*, were prosecuted in the *Exchequer* for Tithes, at the Suit of *Richard Farrer* Priest of *Froyle*.

Taken also in this Year for Tithes,

		l.	s.	d.		l.	s.	d.
Distress for Tithes.	From <i>William Valler</i> , for	8	4	0	Demand, Cattle worth	124	15	0
	<i>John Hounson</i> , for	0	10	0	Demand, Goods worth	7	0	0
	<i>Edward Heath</i> , for	7	0	0	Demand, Goods worth	14	0	0
	For	15	14	0	Taken	145	15	0

Joane Tribe of *Bramshott*, for Tithe of a Farm of 30*l.* per Annum, had taken from her, Cattle and other Goods worth 119*l.* 11*s.*

John Miles and his Wife, *Jonathan Miles, Anthony Parde, Anne Miles,* and *Gilbert Neale*, suffered Distress of their Goods for Absence from the National Worship.

ANNO 1675. *John Bishop* of *Gatcomb*, at the Suit of *John Woodnot* Priest of that Parish, for a Demand of 6*l.* for Tithes, was committed to the Serjeants Ward at *Newport* in the Isle of *Wight*, on the 17th of September this Year, where he remained close Prisoner above two Years and an Half.

For a Meeting held at *Newport* on the 24th of September this Year, *Frederick Perdue*, a poor Boatman, having a Wife and six small Children, had taken from him by the Mayor's Order, two great Boats with all their Tackle, and also his Household Goods, the Town Serjeant charging the Officers to leave neither Bed, Dish, nor Spoon: And it was with much Difficulty they were dissuaded

disfraded from taking away the Bed his Wife then lay on, being at that Time near her Delivery of a Child, and having Women attending her. A Case, which with Men of ordinary Humanity, could have needed no Advocate.

H A M P-
SHIRE,
&c.
1676.

ANNO 1676. Taken for Tithes,

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>John Valler</i> , for 6l. demanded by <i>William Simson</i> Priest of <i>Heathly</i> , Cattle, Calves, and Sheep, worth	37	10	0
<i>Joane Tribe</i> of <i>Bramsbott</i> , for Tithes usually va- lued at 3l. 8s. Cattle and Horses worth	43	10	0
<i>Thomas Downes</i> , <i>Richard Fletcher</i> , <i>Josias Wickham</i> , and <i>Nicholas Woolson</i> , Corn and Hay worth	15	5	0
	96	5	0

Distress for
Tithes.

About this Time *John Trimmer* of *Holybourne*, and nine others, had com-
pounded with *Henry Butler* Priest of *Alton*, for 12l. per Annum for all their
Tithes. *Trimmer* was afterward convinced of the *Quakers* Principles, and the
Parson prosecuted him singly for the whole Claim from himself and all the
Rest: Some of the others evaded Payment, and left the poor *Quaker* to bear
the whole Burden: The Priest got an Execution, and took away his Cattle and
Corn to the Value of 74l. 6s. 7d.

Hard Case of
J. Trimmer.

ANNO 1677. Taken

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>John Valler</i> , for a Year's Tithe of 6l. Value, by an Execution, at the Suit of <i>William Clear</i> Tithe-farmer, Cattle and Sheep worth	39	10	0
<i>Josias Wickham</i> , <i>Nicholas Woolson</i> , <i>Richard Fletcher</i> , and <i>Thomas Downes</i> , Hay, Corn, and Wool, worth	6	8	6
	45	18	6

Distresses.

ANNO 1678. *Stephen Whitland*, was twice committed to Prison, in this
and the next Year, by the Mayor of *Winchester*, for refusing to Swear.

Sufferings of
various Kinds.

Robert Reeves of *Droxford*, had his Lands of 13l. 10s. per Annum seized,
by Force of the Statute against *Popish* Recufants.

In this or the preceding Year *Moses Neave*, *Nicholas Gates*, and *Joane Sly*,
after a Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical Court for Absence from the National
Worship, were by Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo* committed to *Winchester*
Goal: After several Weeks Confinement there, they were released by the
Bishop's Order.

Among the Records of this County, we find a Paper supposed to be writ by
Richard Hubbertorn, which, containing a lively Description of this religious
People, at their first Appearance in England, we think worthy the Reader's
Perusal, viz.

" A short and true Relation of the People called QUAKERS, in their
" first arising to bear Testimony in England.

" T H E Y were a People that from their Infancy or Childhood (many of
" them) had earnest breathing Desires after the Living God, and to
" know him, sparing no Labour, neither omitting any Opportunity, in which
" they expected their Desires might be answered, being very tender in their
" Way, and also zealous for Religion, but still according to the Gift of their
" Knowledge: Never of a bitter Spirit, nor desirous to persecute any for
" Matters of Religion, but of a gentle, teachable Qualification and Disposition,
" being willing to learn any Thing of the Knowledge of God, from any that

A Relation of
the early Tes-
timony-bearers
among this
People.

HAMP-
SHIRE,
&c.
1678.

“ had learned it of the Father, and also willing to teach others any Thing
“ which they had received, their Minds being wholly devoted to God's Ser-
“ vice, and the Knowledge of his Ways; they having passed through many
“ Professions of Religion, following that Rule of the Apostle to *try all Things,*
“ *and hold fast that which is good,* and being not willing to deny any Ordinance
“ or Worship, till they had a certain Evidence from the Spirit of God, that
“ his Spirit, Power, Life, and Presence, was not in it. They thus walking in
“ the Sincerity of their Hearts, in their honest Conversation before the Lord,
“ he answered their Desires, and did reveal the Mysteries of his Kingdom to
“ them, and did cause his Light to shine in their Hearts, whereby they saw
“ the Darkness that had covered the Earth, and the gross Darkness that had
“ covered the People, and by his Light they were led through Darkness, as
“ the Prophet *Joel* witnessed.

“ The first Time that the Name *Quakers* was given them, was in the Year
“ 1650, by one that was envious against them, and in Derision gave them that
“ Name.”

Having laid before the Reader this genuine Description of the said People,
we proceed in relating their Sufferings in this County.

Excessive
Seizures for
Tithes.

ANNO 1679. *John Valler*, for 9l. 10s. demanded for Tithes, had taken
from him by an Execution, at the Suit of *William Simson* Priest, seven Cows and
fifty two Ewes and Lambs, worth 42 l. 15s. This Seizure was very exorbitant,
but exceeded by that on *Henry Streater*, from whom *John Hook* Priest of *Bram-*
sott, for three Years Tithe valued at 13 l. 6s. 8d. took Cattle and Sheep to
the Value of 65 l. 15s. There was also taken in this Year from *James Potter*
and *Richard Potter*, Corn and Hay to the Value of 11 l.

Imprisonments
for not Swear-
ing.

On the 9th of the Month called *June* this Year, *Thomas Austin* of *South-*
Warrenborough, was sent to Prison for refusing to take the Oath of a Constable
when chosen to that Office. He continued in Prison about ten Months.

Several put in
the Stocks.

On the 28th of *December*, *Nicholas Gates*, *Benjamin Whitaker*, and *Jona-*
than Sly of *Alton*, *John Kilburne* of *Holyborne*, and *John Strong* of *Newbury*
in *Berkshire*, were put in the Stocks at *Alresford*, for travelling on the First-
day of the Week, they having been at a Meeting, and visiting a Person
on his Death-bed.

Imprisonments
for Tithes,

ANNO 1680. *William Baldwin* of *Portchester*, at the Suit of *William*
Seas a Priest, for Tithes of 18d. Value, was committed to the County Goal at
Winchester on a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, where he lay above three
Years. In this Year also *James Potter* and *Richard Potter* had taken from
them for Tithes, Corn worth 11 l. 9s.

and for not
Swearing.

William Jennings, elected Beadle of *Southampton*, and refusing to take an
Oath at his entring upon that Office, was sent to *Barragate* Prison in that Town,
and confined there about three Months.

Several from
a Meeting sent
to Prison for
not Swearing.

ANNO 1681. On the 7th of the Month called *May*, upon the Informa-
tion of *Benjamin Culme* a Priest, the Bayliff and Town-Clerk of *Andover*
came to a Meeting there, took several Names, pull'd out those that were met,
and lockt up the Meeting-house Doors. On the 14th they came again to the
Meeting, together with *Robert Noije* a Justice, and dragged out *Edward Wal-*
dren, *Richard Mountain*, *Daniel Smith*, *Thomas Downes*, *Robert Hopkins*, *John*
Brown, *Nicholas Bull*, and *George Lamden*: The Oath of Abjuration being ten-
dred them, they refused to Swear, and were sent to the Town-Prison: The
rude Rabble threw some of them down, and dragged them in the Dirt. In
Prison they lay three Nights on the Floor, not being suffered to have Straw to
lodge on when brought them. Five of their Friends, coming to visit them in
Goal, were shut up with them, and two of them detained all Night. They
were obliged to draw up their Meat and Drink by a Line at the Prison Win-
dow, the Goaler and his Wife abusing those who brought them any, and not
suffering them to come in. On the 18th of the Month called *June*, five Men,
taken at a Meeting, were put into the Cage, two of them having been thrown
down,

Cruel Usage.

down and dragg'd in the Mire and Dirt. On the 25th the Constables took *Thomas Hopper* by the Head and Heels, and threw him down, pitching him on his Head and Shoulders, so that he swooned away: At length recovering, he got out of the Dirt, and took his Child (that stood crying) into his Lap; the Constable snatcht the Child from him and threw it on the Ground, so that the Spectators were grieved at his Barbarity. Seven were that Day sent to Prison, among whom was *Abraham Elton*, whom, in his Way thither, they kickt, abus'd, and dragg'd in the Dirt.

H A M P-
SHIRE,
&c.
1681.

In the Month called *July*, at *Andover* Sessions, those eight already mentioned to have been taken at the Meeting on the 14th of the Month called *May*, together with *Samuel Pitman*, *John Faithful*, *John Goodenough*, and *Benjamin Worrell*, were indicted for a Riot, but the Grand Jury, though menaced and frown'd at by the Court, would not find the Bill. The Court then adjourn'd for a Week, but the Jury could not be prevailed with, either by Threats or Intreaties, to find the Bill. But the Court, predetermined against the Prisoners, tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and sent them back to Prison, where they lay on Straw in a cold damp Room. On the 26th of the same Month, at the Assizes they were brought before Judge *Raymond*, who again caused the Oath to be tendred them, and for refusing it, passed the heavy Sentence of *Præmunire* upon them.

Proceedings at
Andover Ses-
sions.

In this Year *John Valler*, at the Suit of *William Simson* Priest of *Heathly*, for two Years Tithe, valued at 4*l.* per Annum, had taken from him by Execution, Cattle worth 45*l.* Taken also from *James Potter*, *Richard Potter*, and *Henry Streater*, Corn, Hay, and other Things, to the Value of 19*l.* 9*s.*

Seizures for
Tithes.

ANNO 1682. Taken in this and the next Year following from the four Persons last mentioned for Tithes, Corn and Hay worth 94*l.* 7*s.* And from *Robert Biddle* to the Value of 4*l.*

Tithes.

About the Month called *May* this Year, *James Potter* was committed to the County Goal, and afterward at Sessions fined 10*l.* and for refusing to pay it, lay in Prison twelve Months.

At *Southampton* the Friends were frequently pulled by force out of their Meetings, and several of them presented in the Ecclesiastical Court.

ANNO 1683. In this Year *John Burroughs* of *Yeatty* was kept eight Weeks among Felons in *Winchester* Goal; whither were also committed for Absence from the National Worship, *John Woods*, *Justinian Turner*, *Anne Miles*, *Drake Miles*, and *Joseph Jones*: And for the same Cause *William Chandler* and *William Potter* had their Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 1*l.* 16*s.* Also *Francis Jobson* of *Southampton*, for being at a Meeting, had his Door broke open, and his Goods taken away to the Value of 2*l.* 15*s.* *Abraham Jones* also suffered Distress of Goods for the same Cause. Also *Joseph Jones* was imprisoned for a pretended Debt of 220*l.* for eleven Months Absence from the National Worship.

Several Com-
mitments and
Seizures.

ANNO 1684. Taken for Tithes, from *John Valler* and *James Potter*, Hay and Corn to the Value of 18*l.* 14*s.*

Distresses for
Tithes.

In the Month called *June* this Year, *John Kilburne*, for Preaching in a Meeting at *Reading* in *Berkshire*, was fined 20*l.* by *John Blake* Mayor, who sent a Certificate thereof to *Richard Bishop*, a Justice in *Hampshire*, by whose Warrant *Kilburne's* Goods were taken and carried to the Justice's House, to the Value of 23*l.* 10*s.*

About the same Time *Henry Stridwick*, *Thomas Preston*, *Robert South*, *John Spire*, *John Lashford*, and *John Prince*, were imprisoned at *Southampton* for Absence from the National Worship. Also *John Shutt*, chosen a Beadle, and refusing to take an Oath, was imprisoned there ten Weeks.

Imprison-
ments.

ANNO 1685. Taken for Tithes from *Henry Streater* and *John Valler*, Corn and Hay to the Value of 16*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*

Distresses for
Tithes.

ANNO 1687. Taken for Tithes from the same Persons, Corn, Hay, &c. worth 22*l.* 2*s.* And from *John Bond*, *John Lansdale*, and *John Aldridge*, to the Value of 2*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*

Roger

HAMP-
SHIRE,
&c.
1687.

Sufferings for
Tithes.

Roger Smith of Maple-Derwell, at the Suit of Thomas Osborne Tithe-farmer, was imprisoned twelve Days at Basingstoke, and then carried to Winchester Goal, whence he was removed by Habeas Corpus to London.

John Harding of Elson was arrested for Tithes, and at a subsequent Affizes was cast in an Action for treble Damages near 40*l*.

ANNO 1688. Jane Harding, Mother of the said John, was sent to Prison at Winchester for Tithes, and lay there several Months.

In the same Year were taken for Tithes,

From John Valler, Henry Streater, James Potter,
Richard Potter, Thomas Pritchett, and John
Aldridge, Corn and Hay worth

l. s. d.

31 6 3

ANNO 1689. Taken in this Year for Tithes,

From John Bond, James Potter, Henry Streater, John
Valler, and William Gill, Hay, Corn, &c.
to the Value of

40 10 0

Case of W.
Jennings.

We shall close the Account of this County with the Sufferings of William Jennings, the Time of which is not specified: But it is certain that he was twice imprisoned at Southampton, having been prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for teaching School without the Bishop's License, the latter of which Imprisonments was by the Procurement of Dr. Speed.

We proceed next to the Sufferings in Hartfordshire.

C H A P. XVII.

HART-
FORD-
SHIRE.
1656.

HARTFORDSHIRE.

ANNO 1656.

Various Suf-
ferings.

RALPH CHARLES of Risdon suffered twelve Weeks Imprisonment for refusing to contribute toward Repairing the Steeple-house there: And in the same Year, for Demands of 1*l*. 4*s*. 4*d*. for the same Purpose, several had their Goods distrained to the Value of 1*l*. 13*s*. And John Bresbone, for going to a Meeting, had an Horse, Bridle and Saddle, taken away worth 5*l*.

Distresses,
Persecutions,
and Imprison-
ments for
Tithes.

ANNO 1657. In this Year Elizabeth Maynard, a poor Widow, for Tithe of about 2*s*. Value, had a Cow taken from her by Distress: Also Richard North of Yardly, for Tithe of an Acre of Wheat valued at 5*l*. had his House ransack'd by a Bayliff, when only two little Children were at Home: He took away beside his Household Goods, the Wearing-Apparel of himself and Children, and the Covering of their Beds, for want of which they were much prejudiced in their Health, the Weather being cold. The Bayliff had been heard to boast, that now he had to do with the Quakers he should grow rich, but Death deprived him of his Expectation soon after. In the same Year Edward Brockett, for not paying Tithe, was imprisoned nine Weeks; and George Huckle of Hutchin, for refusing to pay the Priest's Demands for Easter-Offerings, and Smoke-penny, was prosecuted in the Exchequer, and committed to Prison, where he continued about two Years. In this Year also Goods were taken from several Persons to the Value of 3*l*. 14*s*. 3*d*. for Demands of 1*l*. 8*s*. 1*d*. for Repairing the Steeple-houses.

ANNO

ANNO 1658. *John Finch* of *Sandon*, a very poor Man, for refusing to pay the usual Assessment for the Parish-Clerk's Wages, had his Working-Tools taken from him. And about the same Time *Henry Stout* of *Ware*, for refusing to Swear when summoned on a Jury, was fined 5*l.* and for Non-payment imprisoned seventeen Weeks. Also *Nicholas Lucas*, for 3*s.* demanded for Tithes, was imprisoned seven Months.

HART-
FORD-
SHIRE.
1658.

Sufferings for
several Causes.

In this Year also Goods were taken by Distress for Tithes,

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>John Robins, John Exton, Henry Sweeting, Richard North, Elizazeth Wood, and William Joyce, to the Value of</i>	45	18	4

ANNO 1659. *Henry Pavit* of *Sabridgeworth*, for refusing to pay 9*s.* 6*d.* toward the Repairs of the Steeple-house, was committed to Prison: Also *Michael Watts* was imprisoned in *Hartford* Goal for a very small Demand of Tithes, and lay there many Months. In this Year also *Elizabeth Wood, John West, J. Siggins, John Mansfield, and John Exton*, suffered by Distress of Goods 93*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* for Tithes not worth a third Part of that Sum. And in the same Year a religious Meeting at *Standborne* was insulted by rude Fellows, who threw human Dung and rotten Eggs on those that were met, and otherwise abused them in a shameful and inhuman Manner. With like Barbarity did the Rabble insult this innocent People assembling at *Sabridgeworth*, striking them as they came thither, throwing them off their Horses, and wallowing them in the Mire, daubing their Faces and Clothes, filling their Hats with Dirt, and so putting them on their Heads: When this Cruelty could not deter them from Meeting, a rude Multitude surrounded the Place, and assaulted them, breaking down the Tiles, Boards, Windows, and Walls of the Meeting-house, and throwing in such Showers of Stones, Dirt, rotten Eggs, human Dung, and Urine, that few or none of the Assembly escaped unhurt: They tore their Clothes in pieces, laid some as dead, sorely bruised others, and thus continued abusing them for the Space of three Hours, the whole Time of the Meeting, and at their Departure repeated the like Abuses, pursuing some of them with Stones and Dirt about two Miles. Some of the Persons who partook of these Abuses were *Robert Beard, John Bresbon, John Reynolds, Daniel Halden, Abel Walston, Jeremiah Plummer, Henry Stout, Samuel Rudd, John Winchester, John Paine, John Migbel, and Thomas Everard*.

Imprisonments.

Distresses.

Meetings
wickedly in-
sulted.

ANNO 1660. Taken in this Year

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>William Joyce, John Robins, Edward Bardolf, Ralph Charles, and John Roberts, for Demands of 18<i>l.</i> 10<i>s.</i> 9<i>d.</i> for Tithes, Cattle, Horses, Sheep, and other Goods, worth</i>	64	13	4
And from <i>John Hurst, William Hutchins, Thomas Thresher, Edward Welch, and William Brown, for Demands of 21<i>l.</i> 3<i>s.</i> 11<i>d.</i> for Tithes, Cattle and Goods to the Value of</i>	82	10	0

Distresses for
Tithes.

For Demands of 39*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*

Taken 147 3 4

John Roberts also suffered eighteen Months Imprisonment for the same Cause, for which his Goods were distrained. Together with him were also Prisoners for not paying Tithes, *Thomas Wood, John Barfoot, Samuel Rudd, and William Staley*.

Imprisonment.

In this Year the Oath of Allegiance was tendred to many of this People, who being taken at their Meetings, and conscientiously refusing to Swear, were sent to Prison. On the 13th of the Month called *January*, a Constable, with many rude Attendants, rush'd into the Meeting at *Baldock*, and after many Blows and Abuses, forcibly dragged out *Thomas Burr, William Burr jun.*

Many impri-
soned for re-
fusing to
Swear.

HART-
FORD-
SHIRE.
1660.

Richard Laundry, John Izard, Jeremy Laundry, Thomas Baldock, Thomas Scales, Edward Crouch, John Bennett, Thomas Petchett, Anthony Bennett, Thomas Mosse, Michael Phillips, James Caudell sen. Daniel Kirk, James Caudell jun. and John Passel, whom they kept all Night at an Inn without Beds, and next Day carried them to *Hartford*, where they were permitted to have Lodging, but about Midnight were taken out of their Beds, and by Warrant from two Justices committed to the County Goal for refusing to Swear: And *William Burr* sen. was sent thither next Day by another Justice for the same Cause. Three Days after *John Bresbon*, *John Reynolds*, *John Blindell*, *John Siggens*, *John Woolmer*, *Edward Welch*, *Samuel Trabern*, *George Scott*, and *Ralph Smart*, were taken out of their Meeting at *Hartford*, and for refusing the Oath sent to Prison. About the same Time *William Nash* passing through *Hartford*, and visiting his Friends in Prison there, was ensnared with the Oath, and detained: *Richard Layng* was also committed for the same Cause, having been taken out of his Brother's House in *Ware*, and carried before the Commissioners. On the 20th of the same Month *Robert Dawson*, *Jeremy Deane*, *Henry Panck*, *William Crook*, *Joseph Goodman*, *Edward Fordham*, *Richard Pattison*, *Michael Day*, *George Richards*, *John Woolston*, *James Odell*, *William Brown*, and *Richard Pattison*, taken out of a Meeting at *Ware*; also *Robert Fairman*, *Gravely Whittenstall*, *Frances Field* Widow, *Anne Brocket*, *Dorothy Gurney*, and *Frances Huckle*, taken from a Meeting at *Hitchin*; likewise *John Payne*, *William Saul*, *Jeremiah Herne*, *Henry Pavett*, *John Winchester*, *John Hutt*, *Reginald Ramsey*, *John Broad*, *John Read*, *John Ayres*, and *William Wright*, taken as they were returning from a Meeting at *Hadham*; all these, together with *Henry Feast*, *Jeremiah Wood*, *Robert Prior*, *Richard Rumball*, *John Wytham*, and *William Wytham*, were the next Day committed to Prison for refusing the Oaths, as was on the Day following *William Worby*, who had been taken from a Meeting at *Royston*. In the same Month *Gregory Tingay*, *Philip Williamson*, *Mary Whitehead*, *Eleanor Harwood*, *Sarah Sizer*, *Thomas Thurgood*, *Francis Dockwra*, *Thomas Dockwra*, *George Gray*, *George Quilton*, and *Michael Dennis*, being assembled in their Meeting-house at *Royston*, were shut up and kept there all Night, and next Day sent to the County Goal for refusing to give Sureties for their good Behaviour. In the same Month, for the same Cause, *George Westwood*, *John King*, *Richard Thomas*, *William Fairman*, *Henry Sweeting*, *Francis Prior*, *Humble Thatcher*, *Henry Stout*, *Thomas Grigson*, *Thomas Prior*, *William Brown*, *William Markwell*, *Robert James*, *Nicholas Brown*, *Thomas Scott*, *John Simonds*, *William Woodfield*, *Joseph Shepherdson*, *Thomas Hill*, and *William Harwood*, were taken out of their Meetings in *Hartford*, and sent to Prison. So that the Number of those who were taken out of their religious Meetings and committed to Goal in this Month only was ninety four Persons. Besides whom, *Richard Martin*, *Thomas Sallett*, *Edward Fage*, and *John Hurst*, were committed for refusing the Oath when tendred them at a Quarter Sessions, and *Abraham Rutt*, when tendred to him by two Justices.

ANNO 1661. Taken by Distress for Tithes in this Year,

Distresses for
Tithes.

From *John Hurst* then in Prison, *John Robins*, *Edward Bardolf*, *John Exton*, *John Izard*, *Thomas Baldock*, *Thomas Rundall*, and *Elizabeth Paine*, Cattle, Sheep, Horses, Household and other Goods, to the Value of

l. s. d.

132 11 8

whereas the Demand of Tithes from all of them was but 52l. 4s. 10d.

A malicious
Prosecution.

In this Year also, *George Huckle* of *Hitchin*, was committed to Prison, where he lay several Years, at the Suit of *Thomas Kidner* Priest, who had prosecuted him in the *Exchequer* out of meer Malice, exhibiting in his Bill a pretended Claim for Tithes of a Cow and Calf, Geese, Hens, Ducks, and other Pullen, though the Man held no Land, nor had any Thing tithable; but the Priest, resolv'd to imprison his Neighbour, charged what he pleased, knowing that he could not disprove any Thing, nor be admitted to answer but upon Oath.

Taken

ANNO 1662. Taken by Distress for Demands of Tithes amounting to 18 l. 19 s. 6 d.

HARTFORDSHIRE.
1662.

From John Blindell, William Prior, Mary Godfrey, John Odell, William Hutchin, and Thomas Thresher, Cows, Corn, and other Goods, to the Value of

l. s. d.

92 6 3

Distress for Tithes.

In this Year John Kinsey of Hadham was imprisoned by an Attachment out of the Exchequer for Tithes. Imprisonment.

At Midsummer Sessions, held the 14th of the Month called July, many of the Prisoners, for Meetings, were brought before the Justices, of whom twenty six were released, and twenty two, for refusing the Oaths then tendred them, were recommitted; those released were William Hutchins, John Goodman, Robert Burrell, Edward Kemp, George Kemp, James Gray, Edward Gray, John Exton, Richard North, Robert Dimdale, Simon Rutland, John Paine, Richard Day, Thomas Rush, Samuel Traberne, Thomas Traberne, Henry Welch, William Brown jun. John Simonds, Thomas Grigson, Robert Cox, Robert Runnington, James Barnett, the Widow Pennington, John Goodal, and John Packer. Those sent back to Prison were Thomas West, Thomas Harris, Henry Pavett, William Saul, Jeremiah Herne, Richard Pattison, Thomas Yates, Ebenezer Gollage, Roger Cooper, Thomas Yarrow, John West, Anne Gold, Michael Day, Thomas Lamb, John Winchester, William Wright, John Hutt, John Read, John Fordham, Abel Walston, Edward Goodman, and Thomas Thresher: Of these, Thomas Harris and John Winchester died Prisoners.

Proceedings at Sessions.
26 released.

22 recommitted.

Death of T. Harris and J. Winchester.

At the Quarter Sessions at Hartford in October this Year, John King, Richard Thomas, Abraham Rutt, and Henry Sweeting, appeared to answer a Process against them for Absence from the National Worship, when one of the Justices, a Councillor, made an invective Speech against the Quakers, and their Meetings, as dangerous and formidable, whereupon the Bench let the first Process stop, and tendred them the Oath of Allegiance on the first Day of the Sessions, giving them Time till next Morning to consider whether they would take it or not, telling them, that if they refused, they would incur a Premunire. Next Morning they appeared again, and refusing to take it, they were immediately indicted, found guilty, and had Sentence passed upon them the same Day, viz. "That they were put out of the King's Protection, and rendred incapable of the Benefit of any Law: That their Lands, Tenements, Goods, and Chattels, were forfeited to the King, and their Bodies to be imprisoned during his Pleasure." Under this doleful Sentence they were returned to Prison, and close confined during a sharp Winter, whereby their Health was much impaired. At the same Sessions the following Order was made, viz.

At Quarter Sessions the Oath tendred to several,

and Sentence of Premunire passed.

"Harts s.

"Apud General Session. pac. Com. prædict. tent. Sexto & Septimo die Octobris Anno Regni Car. 2. nunc Regis Angliæ, &c. 14^o.

"WHEREAS John King, Henry Sweeting, Abraham Rutt, and Richard Thomas, all of the Town of Hartford in the County of Hartford, at this present Sessions have been indicted, and stand severally convicted by their own Confessions, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance to them severally then and there tendred, according to the Form of the Statute in that Case made and provided, by reason whereof their, and every of their several Goods and Chattels, Lands and Tenements, are become forfeited to the King's Majesty. It is therefore ordered by the Court, that the Sheriffs of this County of Hartford do immediately upon Sight hereof seize, and take into his Hands and Custody for his Majesty's Use, all and singular the Lands and Tenements, Goods and Chattels of the said several Offenders, "and

An Order of Sessions.

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1662.

“ and the same in his Hands to detain and keep, as by the Law in such Case
“ is requisite.”

The Execution of this Order was prevented by a timely Application to the King, and the Prisoners, after one and thirty Weeks Confinement, were released by the following Warrant, viz.

“ CHARLES R.

The King's
Warrant.

“ WHEREAS humble Suit has been made unto us on the Behalf of
“ *John King, Abraham Rutt, Henry Sweeting, and Richard Thomas*, Pri-
“ soners in the Common Goal of *Hartford*, and convicted of a *Premunire*, that
“ we would be graciously pleased to grant them their Liberties: Our Will
“ and Pleasure is, that forthwith upon Sight hereof you release and set at Li-
“ berty, or give effectual Order for the Discharge of them the said *John King,*
“ *Abraham Rutt, Henry Sweeting, and Richard Thomas,* and every of them,
“ and for your so doing this shall be your Warrant.

“ Given at our Court at *Whitehall* the 5th Day of *May* 1663, in the
“ fourteenth Year of our Reign.

“ To our Trusty and Well-beloved
“ the High Sheriff of the said
“ County, Justices of the Peace,
“ Under Sheriff, or whom else it
“ may concern.

By His Majesty's Command,

“ *William Morris.*”

Imprisonments.

At a Quarter Sessions in the Month called *January* this Year, *John Shinn* and *Jeremiah Deane* were committed to Prison for Absence from the National Worship.

More Imprison-
ments.

ANNO 1663. On the 11th of the Month called *April*, *William Baily*, who had been taken from a Meeting at *King's-Langley*, was sent to *Hartford* Goal; and at the Quarter Sessions on the 27th of the same Month, for refusing the Oath of Allegiance, was recommitted, and continued Prisoner some Years after. At the same Sessions the Oath was also tendred to *John Kinsley* and *Edward Dobbins*, taken out of a Meeting at *Widford*, but the Court deferred the Proceeding against them till another Sessions, before which they were discharged by an Order from the King, but some of the Justices, bearing Ill-will to the said *John Kinsley*, procured his Imprisonment again before the Year's End, and when in Prison he was farther charged with a *Capias* upon a *Significavit* of *Excommunication*.

Distress for
Tithes.

In this Year for Demands of Tithe amounting to 37*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* were taken from *William Shipman, Elizabeth Jones, John Robins, Ralph Charles, and John Exton*, Corn, Cattle, and other Goods, to the Value of 75*l.* 16*s.* In this Year also, *Robert Dimsdale*, for practising Physick without the Bishop's License, was excommunicated, and sent to Prison, where he lay several Years. Also *Edward Camp* was sent to Prison on a *Writ de Excommunicato capiendo*.

A Physician
excommuni-
cated.

ANNO 1664. *Robert Pryor, Thomas Chalkley, Thomas Hill, William Pratt, and Thomas Leavens*, taken at a Meeting in *Pryor's* House, were sent to Prison, and at the Assizes soon after, for refusing the Oath, ordered to continue there. They lay a long Time in Goal, and two of them, *Pratt* and *Leavens*, died during their Imprisonment.

Death of
W. Pratt and
T. Leavens.
Several in-
dicted on the
Banishment
Act.

At the same Assizes, held on the 12th and 13th of the Month called *August*, *Francis Pryor, Nicholas Lucas, Henry Feast, Henry Marshall, Jeremiah Herne, Thomas Wood, John Blindell, Samuel Traberne, and John Reynolds*, were indicted for the third Offence upon the Conventicle Act, the Penalty of which was Banishment. The Witnesses deposed, that they found those Persons at certain Times and Places, assembled above five together, but added, that they neither heard

heard any of them speak, nor saw them do any Thing. Whereupon the Grand Jury, who expected Proof of somewhat said or done, after a long Debate, returned the Bill Ignoramus. At which the Judge, Orlando Bridgman, seemed angry, and said, *My Masters, What do you mean? Will you make a Nose of Wax of the Law? Will you suffer the Law to be baffled? Those that think to deceive the Law, the Law will deceive them.* With this Reproof and fresh Instructions he sent them out again, who then found the Bill, at which the Court seemed well pleased. Then were four of the Prisoners called to the Bar, to whom, having pleaded *Not guilty*, and saying, *they had transgressed no just Law*, the Judge replied, *But you have transgressed this Law* (holding the Conventicle Act in his Hand) *and you have been twice convicted already. If you be now again found Guilty, I must pass the Sentence of Transportation upon you: But if you will promise to have no more such Meetings I will acquit you for what is past. This Favour you may receive, before the Jury be charged with you: What say you, Will you meet no more?* They answered with one Accord, *We can make no such Promise.* The Jury was sworn, and the Witness gave Evidence as before, which when the Judge summ'd up, he said to the Jury, *You are not to expect a plain punctual Evidence of any Thing said or done; a bare Proof of their being met is sufficient for their Conviction. 'Tis not your Business to enter into the Meaning of the Law, but singly to determine the Fact of Meeting.* Thus taught, the Jury went out, and soon brought them in *Guilty*, and the Judge pass'd Sentence forthwith, *viz. You shall be transported beyond the Seas, to the Island of Barbadoes, there to remain seven Years.* Then the other five were brought to the Bar, four of whom were convicted on the same Evidence, and sentenced to be transported beyond the Seas, to the Island of Jamaica, for seven Years. And the fifth, John Reynolds, whom the Witnesses said they had not seen in the Meeting-house, but within a Yard of the Door, with his Face from it, was acquitted. The eight Persons convicted were informed, by the Judge, of that Clause in the Act which provides, that upon Payment of 100*l.* each, before the Rising of the Court, they might be discharged: The Court then adjourned for a short Time, and returning, sent to the Prisoners to know whether they would pay the 100*l.* to which they unanimously answering *No*, the Court broke up.

Pursuant to the Sentence, the Goaler, by the Sheriff's Order, as he said, applied to one Thomas May, Master of the Ship called the *Anne*, of London, and contracted with him to carry seven Persons, those to Barbadoes at 5*l.* per Head, and those to Jamaica at 6*l.* telling him that they were free Men, and that six of them would carry Goods. On the 1st of September the Prisoners were brought to the Bull Inn in Bishopsgate-Street; the Shipmaster came and askt them, *whether they were willing to go with him?* They answered, *that they were compell'd to go against their Wills by the Act.* He replied, *I agreed to carry free Men, and will carry no others;* and so went away, and after him the Goaler, leaving the Prisoners lockt up, with an Under-Keeper, that Night.

Next Morning they were put into two Coaches, and carried to Billingsgate, hurried into Boats, and rowed to the Ship's Side; the Master not being on board, the Mate said, *he had express Orders not to receive them.* The Goaler, enraged at this Disappointment, carries them back to the Dark-house near Billingsgate, and leaves them lockt up in a Room, with two Keepers, while himself hurries to a Secretary of State, and makes Oath that he had contracted with Thomas May for the Prisoners Passage, as Persons convicted by the Act: May, being sent for, took with him Witnesses of his Contract, but the Secretary told him, *that Oath having been already made for the King, his Witnesses could be of no Use; he must carry the Prisoners.* At Night they were carried back to the Inn, and kept close there, till the 14th of the same Month, and but few of their Friends admitted to see them.

On the 14th they were again put into two Coaches, which were ordered to drive the privatest Way to Ratcliff; but some of their Friends took Coaches also, and followed, the angry Goaler threatening to pistol the Coachmen for following so close. At Ratcliff Persons were appointed to drag them into an

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Their Trial.

The Judge's
Charge to the
Jury.

Sentence of
Transporta-
tion.

One acquitted.

Proceedings
in order to
the Prisoners
Transporta-
tion.

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House, and then into a dark Cellar, whence they forced them down a Ladder into Boats, rowed them to the Ship, and put them on Board in the Master's Absence; where one *Manning*, an officious Person on Board, received them, designing, as it was thought, to make a Market of them beyond Sea. The Master coming, ordered them to go on Shore again, himself assisting to row them, and giving them the following Certificate, viz.

Shipmaster's
Certificate.

" THESE are to give Notice to whom it may concern, that whereas
" seven Men were delivered on board my Ship called the *Anne*, of *Lon-*
" *don*, to be transported, viz. *Nicholas Lucas*, *Henry Feast*, *Henry Marshall*,
" *Francis Pryor*, *Jeremy Herne*, *John Blendall*, and *Samuel Traberne*, that by
" my Permission and Leave they have Liberty to go on Shore, and to come
" again when I shall require them. Given under my Hand,

Witness *John Clements*
William Wilson
William Looker

" *Thomas May.*"

Ship driven
back many
Times.

On the 1st of *October* the Master sent for them to come on Board, which they did, and the Ship sail'd down the River as far as the *Red-House* near *Deptford*, when a sudden Turn of Wind drove her back to *Limehouse*, where the Prisoners were again set on Shore. On the 6th the Ship again weighed Anchor, with Wind and Tide fair, so that many other Vessels pass'd by them down the River, yet could not the Seamen, with their utmost Application, make this Ship sail, but they were obliged to anchor again about a Stone's Cast from the Place they lay at before, so that some of the Mariners were amazed, and said, *We shall never get out of England while these Men are on Board*. So they set them on Shore the third Time. On the 8th they sailed again, and went down to *Greenwich*, when a sudden Storm obliged them to cast Anchor again to secure the Ship, and the Prisoners were set on Shore the fourth Time. On the 10th they were ordered on Board a fifth Time, and sailed again, when the Ship was with much ado kept from running on Ground, nor could the Seamen steer her aright, till they had set the Prisoners on Shore again at *Blackwall*, after which she went down well the same Tide to *Gravesend*: Thither the Prisoners followed, and by the Master's Order, some tarried there, and others came back to *London*, till the 28th, when they were ordered on Board a sixth Time, and the Ship sailed that Night to *Lee Road*, where they cast Anchor, but before the Morning the Wind turned strong against them, so that they lay there two Days and three Nights. On the 31st they sailed to the *North-Foreland*, and cast Anchor again till the next Day. At Night the Master set them on Shore, and directed them to *Deal*, where he met them all together, and before several Witnesses declared, that though they had followed the Ship so long, yet he was resolved not to carry them, and gave them a Certificate in Writing as follows, viz.

The Master's
Certificate of
his Refusal to
carry them.

" WHEREAS there were seven Men, called *Quakers*, brought on
" board my Ship, called the *Anne*, of *London*, by *William Edmonds*
" *Goaler* of *Hartford*, to wit, *Nicholas Lucas*, *Henry Feast*, *Henry Marshall*,
" *Francis Pryor*, *John Blendall*, *Jeremiah Herne*, and *Samuel Traberne*, all
" which have continued waiting upon my Ship from *London* to *Deal*, from the
" 14th Day of *September* last till this Day: And I seeing Providence hath
" much crossed me hitherto, whereby I perceive that the Hand of the Lord
" is against me, that I dare not proceed on my Voyage to carry them, they
" being innocent Persons, and no Crime signified against them worthy of Ba-
" nishment; and that there is a Law in force, that no *Englishman* shall be car-
" ried out of his native Country against his Will; and also my Men refuse to
" go the Voyage if I carry them, which will be much to my Hindrance,
" Men being very scarce by reason of the long Press. For these Reasons there-
" fore, and many more, I will not carry them. These are therefore to certify
" any

“ any Person or Persons that shall question them, that they did not make an
 “ Escape, but I put them on Shore again to go whither they please. All
 “ this is certified under my own Hand this 10th Day of November 1664.

HART-
 FORD-
 SHIRE.
 1664.

Witness hereunto,

*John Banckes, Humphry Biglestone,
 John Clements, Thomas Hollyman.*

“ *Thomas May.*”

Being thus dismiss by the Master of the Vessel, *Manning*, who, as we mentioned before, thought to make a Gain of them, was displeased, and complained to the Deputy, or principal Officer, at *Deal*, that the Prisoners had left the Ship and made an Escape; but they producing the Master's Certificate, the Deputy would not concern himself with them: Nevertheless, by *Manning's* Solicitation, the Deputy and Master came to them that Afternoon, and the Master appointed the Prisoners to meet him again next Morning at the Sea-side, which they did: Being there, the Master again declared that he would not carry them: Yet *Manning*, with two others to help him, forced four of them into a Boat then on the *Beach*, where they sat till the Tide came up, and the Boat was in Danger of running a-drift, for none of the People, nor Owner of the Boat, would touch an Oar to row them on Board: So they came out again and walked by the Sea-side, where meeting the Master, they asked him, whether he had any Thing more to say to them? He replied, *If I have, I will come to you again.* But they saw him no more, for he went on Board that Night, and next Morning they saw the Ship under Sail, the Deputy being present, and saying, *he could witness that the Ship went away from them, not they from it.* Then they said to the Deputy, *If thou, as a Magistrate, hast any Thing to say or do with us, thou mayst.* He answered, *he had not, but wished them well.* This Relation of the Manner how the Ship left them, was afterward signed by eleven Persons who were Eye-witnesses of these Transactions.

The Master again declares that he would not carry them.

Being thus set at Liberty they returned to *London*, and then to their own Houses, sending the following Letter to the King and Council.

The banished Persons return.

“ **B**E it known unto the King, or whom else it may concern, that whereas
 “ we, whose Names are hereafter mentioned, were sentenced at *Hart-*
 “ *ford* for Transportation to the King's foreign Plantations, in order unto
 “ which we were brought by the Goaler of *Hartford* unto *London*, and there
 “ embarked in the Ship called the *Anne*, of *London*, *Thomas May* Commander,
 “ who brought us down into the *Downs*, and there set us on Shore, giving
 “ us a Certificate, signifying the Cause and Reason why he could not carry us,
 “ and the Ship being sailed and gone, and left us behind, we came back in
 “ order to go Home to our Wives and Families: And thus we thought it
 “ expedient to inform the King thereof, and herewith also do insert a Copy
 “ of the Certificate.”

Their Letter to the King and Council.

Then followed the Copy of the Shipmaster's Certificate as before.

They also added this *Postscript*.

“ And if it be the King's Pleasure to be farther informed in this Matter by
 “ us or any of us, we may be found or heard of at our respective Dwel-
 “ lings. *London* the 4th of the Tenth Month 1664.”

Postscript.

This Letter being read at the Council-Board, produced the following Order, viz.

“ At

HART-
FORD-
SHIRE.
1664.

Order of
Council for
their Recom-
mitment.

“ At the Court at *Whitehall* the 7th of *December* 1664.

“ P R E S E N T,

“ The KING's Most Excellent Majesty,

“ His Royal Highness the Duke of York	Earl of Anglesea
“ Lord Archbishop of Canterbury	Earl of Bath
“ Lord Treasurer	Earl of Lauderdale
“ Lord Privy Seal	Lord Berkley
“ Duke of Albemarle	Mr. Treasurer
“ Marquess of Dorchester	Mr. Vice-Chamberlain
“ Lord Chamberlain	Mr. Secretary Morris
“ Earl of Berkshire	Mr. Secretary Bennett
“ Earl of St. Albans	Sir Edward Nicholas
“ Mr. Chancellor of the Dutchy	

“ **W** H E R E A S *Nicholas Lucas, Henry Feast, Henry Marshall, Francis Pryor, John Blendall, Jeremiah Herne, and Samuel Traberne*, Persons convicted at the last Assizes held at *Hartford* in the County of *Hartford*, and sentenced to be transported to some of his Majesty's Plantations in the *West-Indies*, and who accordingly were put on board the Ship called the *Anne*, of *London*; whereof one *Thomas May* was Master, and who undertook and engaged himself for their Transportation, yet set them on Shore in or about the *Downs*, leaving them at Liberty to go whither they pleased; and it appearing to be Matter of Contrivance and Design between the said Master and Persons before mentioned.

“ It was this Day ordered (his Majesty present in Council) that the High-Sheriff of the County of *Hartford* now being, do cause the said *Nicholas Lucas, Henry Feast, Henry Marshall, Francis Pryor, John Blendall, Jeremiah Herne, and Samuel Traberne*, to be apprehended and secured until Means of transporting them can be made by some Shipping bound unto those Parts.”

By this Order of Council they were again committed to Prison, and continued there till released by the King's Letters Patent more than seven Years after.

21 Others
banished.

Being thus returned to Prison, they found there lying under the same Sentence, one and twenty others of their Friends, who at the Quarter Sessions held at *Hartford* on the 3d, 4th, and 5th of *October* this Year, were convicted, and sentenced to Banishment, namely,

For B A R B A D O E S,

Richard Thomas, Samuel Wollaston, John Bresbone, Thomas Crawley, Robert Fairman, John Reynolds, William Brown, John Witham, Francis Haddon, and Robert Crook.

For J A M A I C A,

Lewis Laundy, William Burr, Thomas Burr, Thomas Mosse, Michael Day, Robert Hart, William Adams, John Thurgood, Henry Sweeting, Jeremiah Deane, and Henry Stout.

Sentence.

In pronouncing Sentence against these last, which ran thus, “ It is awarded, and the Court doth award, that you and every of you shall be transported beyond the Seas to the Island of *Jamaica*, one of his Majesty's Plantations foreign, there to remain seven Years;” the Judge or Chairman of the Sessions, whose Name was *Chancy*, was observ'd to change Countenance and falter in his Speech, which *Lewis Laundy*, one of the Prisoners, observing, spake to him thus, *Alas for thee, poor Chancy, it had been well for thee if thou hadst not done this Day's Work.* After a little Space the Chairman recovering himself, said, *If you or every of you will pay 100l. into this Court, you may be discharged*

discharged from this Sentence, and the Court shall not be dismiss till To-Morrow Morning. Next Morning they were called again, and severally askt, whether they would pay the 100*l*. To which Lewis Laundry answered thus, "It is for the Testimony of my Conscience towards God that I am sentenced, and if I had an Hundred Lives, and could redeem them all with an Hundred Pence, I should not give them in this Case." Richard Thomas also spake thus, "Be it known unto you, that the Service we are call'd unto is more honourable than to be puachased off for Money, and therefore if the tenth Part of a Farthing would do it, I should not give it you. The Religion we profess, we are neither afraid nor ashamed to suffer for: It is the Truth, and shall stand over the Heads of all such transgressing Wretches as you are." The rest also unanimously refused to pay any Thing. So the Court broke up, and they were sent back to Prison, where most of them lay till released by the King's Letters Patent in 1672.

In this Year 1664, for 26*l*. demanded for Tithes, John Blindell, William Brown, Samuel Rudd, and Edward Bardolf, suffered Distresses to the Value of 46*l*. Also John Exton, John Harrison, William Joyce, and John Fisher, for Demands of 14*l*. 13*s*. 7*d*. $\frac{1}{2}$ *d*. suffered Distresses to the Value of 37*l*.

In taking these Distresses, John Blindell, then in Prison, suffered much by a Seizure of his Horses in Harvest Time, when through bad Weather, and lack of his Horses to get his Corn in, he suffered great Damage. About this Time also John Goodman, sued in the County Court for Tithes worth but 13*s*. 4*d*. had his Goods taken by an Execution to a great Value. The Sentences of that Court were sometimes very severe. It happened some Time before this, that Michael Watts having Judgment passed against him in that Court for Tithes, had two Cows taken away worth 14*l*. Some Months after the Cows came Home again of their own Accord, and he fed them with his other Cattle: For this the Court fined him five Marks, and made an Order to take away his Cows again, and for the Fine made a Seizure of an Horse worth 5*l*. About this Time also John Puddephatt suffered fifteen Months Imprisonment for Tithes, though the Priest at the same Time took his Corn out of the Field. Likewise John Harlow and John Smith suffered Imprisonment for the same Cause.

ANNO 1670. On the 12th of the Month called May this Year, a Meeting was held at William Burr's House in Baldock, for which he, then in Prison, was fined 20*l*. When Robinson, an Informer, came to make Distress, he found the Malt-house shut up, of which he complained to the Justices Ratcliff and Wilmot, who under a Pretence of searching for a Conventicle, granted a Warrant to break open the Doors, which the Officers being backward to do, the Justices came in Person, and threatened the chief Constable to fine him 500*l*. if he did not break open the Doors of the Malt-Loft: At length the Informer burst open the Doors, and they took away twenty six Quarters of Malt. Part of which was put in the Market-house, because no Person in the Town would receive it. On the 17th of the next Month Thomas Burr was again fined 80*l*. for four several Meetings at his House, for which they again broke open his Malt-house, and carried away one Hundred and four Quarters of Malt. Thus, while close confined in Prison, he suffered the Spoiling of his Goods to the Value of 130*l*.

Several others of Baldock had Goods taken from them by Distress for Meetings, viz. John Izard, John Burr, Joseph Burr, Edward Crouch, Simon Mil-lard, Lewis Laundry, Thomas Mosse, Michael Mosse, and Richard Shepherd, to the Value of 7*l*. 19*s*.

On the 19th of the Month called June, Justice Ratcliff came to the Meeting at Hitchin, and said, I hope you will not deny that this is a Religious Assembly, repeating the same Words several Times: One present answered, It is a religious Meeting: He replied, That's enough, and gave his Warrant to distrain for 20*l*. to levy which, the Officers broke open the Doors of Frances Field Widow, and took away Goods worth 10*l*. which they sold for 40*s*. They also took for Part of the same Fine from William Turner, Goods to the Value of 14*l*. And

HART-
FORD-
SHIRE.
1664.

Stout Answer
of L. Laundry.

Distresses for
Tithes.

Various Occur-
rences in mak-
ing these Dis-
tresses.

Rigorous Dis-
tress on W.
Burr.

Distress on
others.

Sufferings for
Meeting at
Hitchin.

HART-
FORD-
SHIRE.
1670.

Distresses on
T. Green for
Preaching.

Distresses for
Meeting at
Hartford.

Distresses on
T. Burr.

Other Dis-
tresses.

Release of
those who lay
under Sen-
tence of Ba-
nishment, and
many others.

Commitment
of T. Robin-
son.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

on the next Day, from Samuel Crouch, John Barker, John Mansfield, and Wil-
liam Marshall, Goods worth 1 l. 19 s. About the same Time they took from
the Wife of Henry Stout, a Quarter of Malt for going to a Meeting, her Hus-
band being then in Prison.

Thomas Green being on his Knees in Prayer at a Meeting in Sabridgeworth, was
dragged out and fined by two Justices 10 l. for which his Goods were taken
by Distress to the Value of 50 l. At another Time the same Thomas Green,
having preached at a Meeting in Essex, and a Certificate thereof being sent
from two Justices there, had a Seizure made of his Goods worth about 20 l.
For Meetings at Hartford, were taken

From Richard Martin, Edward Plumsted, Francis Had-	}	4	15	0
don, William Fairman, and Abraham Rutt,				
Goods worth				
Richard Thomas's Wife, he being in Prison		0	15	0
Nathanael Garret, Robert James, Thomas Smart,	}	16	1	0
William Bunkey, and William Ruffel, to the				
Value of				
		21	11	0

Thomas Pryor, for being at a Meeting at Waltham-Abbey, had Goods taken
from him worth 5 l. 10 s.

Thomas Burr, to whom a Lease of the Meeting-house at Ware was con-
veyed, was, for several Meetings there, fined 20 l. each Time, and had his
Goods taken by several Distresses within this Year, to the Value of 10 l. 14 s.

Taken also from Henry Panck, Gregory Tingay, William Wright, John Bref-
bone, Elizabeth Reynolds, and William Adams, for their religious Meetings, Goods
worth 43 l. 7 s. One of the Officers who made these Distresses, being a Bra-
sier, valued the Pewter taken at 9 d. per Pound, but one of the Justices told
him it must not be valued at above 5 d. or 6 d. and that they must take the
more, saying, *We are at great Expences, and must be paid*: And ordered them
to be sure to take enough.

For Meetings at Widford were taken from Thomas Wood, Thomas Gates, and
Abel Woolston, a Cow and other Goods worth 3 l. 16 s.

ANNO 1672. In this Year Nicholas Lucas, Samuel Traberne, Jeremiah
Herne, Henry Feast, Henry Marshall, John Wutham, Richard Thomas, Francis
Haddon, Thomas Crawley, Robert Fairman, Samuel Wollaston, Robert Crook,
John Thurgood, Henry Sweeting, Henry Stout, Jeremiah Deane, William Burr,
Thomas Burr, Lewis Laundry, Thomas Mosse, and William Brown, after eight
Years Confinement under Sentence of Transportation, were by the King's Letters
Patent at length discharged from their long Captivity in the County Goal at
Hartford, where John Holmsted, John Pudival, Richard Puttenham, Edward
Camp, John Hurst, James Bawnett, and Robert Dimsdale, were still continued
Prisoners on Writs de Excommunicato capiendo. There were also discharged by
the said Letters Patent, William Fairman, Mary Wittonbury, John Piggott, Ed-
ward Parkin, William Larking, Thomas Wood, Priscilla Grapes, Sarah Grapes,
Roger Cooper, Ebenezer Gollidge, Thomas Archer, William Archer, Thomas Kirby,
Thomas Vance, Thomas Hill, Robert Pryor, and Thomas Chalkley. Two others
had died in Prison there, viz. Joseph Goodman and John Bradwell.

ANNO 1673. On the 24th of October, Thomas Robins, an Husbandman,
of Hemel-Hempsted, was committed to Hartford Goal on an Exchequer Process,
for a Demand of 8 s. for Tithes, at the Suit of Joseph Jones.

ANNO 1674. In this Year John Bowman of Whetstone, for refusing to pay
Tithes, was committed to Prison: Also Grace Tinkle of Barley, who had been
at a Meeting in Royston, was fined for herself and others 9 l. 5 s. To levy which,
the Officers broke open her House, and seized her Goods to the Value of 16 l.
In like Manner Samuel Rudd of Wadefmill in the Parish of Standon, convicted of

of being at a Meeting at *Roydon* in *Essex*, had his Doors broke open, and his Goods seized to the Value of 40*l*. And *John Parker* of *Yardly*, for Preaching in a Meeting at *Buntingford*, had his Cattle and Sheep taken away to the Value of 32*l*. In this Year also, were taken in Cattle and Goods from *Thomas Edridge*, *George Edridge*, *Susan Edridge*, and *Edward Sutton*, to the Value of 89*l*. 9*s*. In December this Year *John Mosse* was committed to Prison on a *Significavit* out of the Ecclesiastical Court, for not paying toward the Repairs of the Steeple-house.

HARTFORD-SHIRE.
1674.

Doors broke open.
J. Mosse imprisoned.

ANNO 1675. In this Year the Constables of *Buntingford*, authorized by Warrant from Justice *Gulston*, and terrified by a blustering Informer's Threats, that if they did not take enough they should pay the rest themselves, entred the House of *George Gates*, broke open Locks and Doors, and for a Fine of 20*l*. laid on him for a Meeting-house, of which he was neither Owner nor Occupier, took away his Goods to the Value of 46*l*.

Distress on G. Gates.

ANNO 1676. *Robert Cooper* of *Chestbunt*, was imprisoned for Tithes, at the Suit of *Robert Winchestly* Priest, a Prosecutor so rigid, that he gave special Orders to the Goaler to keep him close, and not let him go into the Town for any Refreshment: To some of his Friends pleading for him, that he was a poor Man, had a Wife and many Children, the Priest returned this Answer, If his Children starve, 'tis none of my Concern: He shall lie there and rot: I will have no more Mercy on him than on a Thief: If the Law would hang him I would: Tithes is my Due, and I will have it. A Reply unbecoming a Protestant, and favouring of the bitter Spirit of Romish Persecution.

R. Cooper imprisoned.

Cruel Answer of a persecuting Priest.

ANNO 1677. *George Gates* of *Buntingford*, was arrested on the Statute of 20*l*. per Month, for Absence from the National Worship, and committed to Prison, where he continued till he died on the 5th Day of the Month called May 1680, a constant and faithful Sufferer for his religious Perseverance in worshipping God according to his Conscience.

ANNO 1678. *Elizabeth Eldridge* Widow, was prosecuted on the Statute of 20*l*. per Month, for not conforming to the National Way of Worship, and had taken out of her Shop at several Times, Cloth, Stuffs, and other Goods, to the Value of 300*l*. and upwards.

ANNO 1679. In this Year *Nathanael Nash* and *Henry Pavett* were Prisoners in *Hartford* Goal for Tithes: And in the same Year *John Huckle*, a poor Man of *Wotton*, at the Prosecution of *Samuel Bendy* Priest, for 7*s*. Tithes, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 4*l*. Also *John Blindell*, at the same Priest's Suit, sustained a Seizure of his Timber and Household Goods to the Value of 42*l*. 5*s*. And *Grace Finkle* of *Berkley*, at the Suit of *Henry Greenbill* Priest, had two Milcht Cows taken from her worth 8*l*. About the same Time *William Bunkey*, *James Brown*, and *Robert Cooper*, were committed to Prison by Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*; as was *George Hagger* of *Barley*, by an Order of Sessions, all of them for absenting themselves from the Parochial Way of Worship.

Prosecutions for Tithes.

ANNO 1682. In this Year two Justices of the Peace, *Maddocks* and *Fox*, were very active in molesting religious Meetings, then usually held on the First-day of the Week at *Flamsted-End*: By their Warrants many Fines were imposed, and Distresses made on the Goods and Chattels of such as frequented those Meetings, viz.

	<i>l</i> .	<i>s</i> .	<i>d</i> .	
<i>Nicholas King, Nathanael Tomson, John Roberts,</i>	33	0	0	Distresses for Meetings.
<i>John Blinden, and Richard Saunders, to the Value of</i>				
<i>William Bilton, William Wild, Thomas Watson,</i>	87	0	0	
<i>John Bowman, and the Widow Runington</i>				
	120	0	0	

To

HART-
FORD-
SHIRE.
1682.

Breaking
down a Meet-
ing-house.
Chimney-piece
fired.

Resolute An-
swer of a poor
Man.

Distresses.

Death of
N. Nash.

Sentence of
Premunire
past on J.
Fisher.

Many impri-
soned for not
swearing.

Extrajudicial
Acts.

Indictments
for Absence
from the Na-
tional Worship.

To one of those Meetings the Justices came, attended with *William Morson*, who was both Constable and Informer; after a short Pause, one of the Justices, viz. *Maddocks*, says to the Constable, *Mr. Fox and I command you to break the Forms, &c.* Whereupon the Constable charging others to assist him, they broke the Forms, Benches, Galleries, Windows, and Doors, all in pieces; and began to demolish the Walls. On the First-day of the next Week they came again, and ordered the Doors, which in the Interval had been repaired, to be broken again and burnt; in doing which they set Fire to the Chimney-piece of the House, to the Consternation of the Neighbourhood; and one of the Justices was heard to declare, that if he could be sure it would burn nothing but the Meeting-house, it should not be extinguished. Among those whom the Constable charged to assist him was *John Parsons*, a poor Man, whom the Justice commanded to help break the Forms, &c. *Parsons* replied, *No, Sir, I don't use to work on Sundays.* The Justice insisting upon his doing it, the Man answered, *If any Body molest the Constable, I shall assist him to keep the Peace, but for breaking the Forms, I will not do it.* The Justice threatened to send him to Prison, but he steadfastly persisting in his Resolution, and saying, *I am contented, Sir, if I must go to Goal for not working on Sundays,* the Justice's rash Command prov'd ineffectual, and his Threats abortive, for want of Law to enforce them.

In October this Year, *Henry Nichols* and *Richard Saunders*, for Meetings at *South-Mims*, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of

And for other Meetings, Goods were taken from *Wonderful Warwick*, *Thomas Roberts*, and *Gawen Lawry*, to the Value of

19 4 7

31 0 8

50 5 3

In this Year *Nathanael Nash*, after long Confinement, died in *Hartford Goal*, a faithful Witness against the antichristian Yoak and Oppression of Tithes.

In this Year also, *John Fisher*, upon an Information, that he, being Constable, had refused to act in breaking up a Dissenter's Meeting, had the Oath of Allegiance tendred him by the Justices, and upon his Refusal of it at a second Tender, had Sentence of *Premunire* pass'd upon him, under which Sentence he lay long in Prison. About the same Time a Complaint was made at Sessions against *George Keith* for Preaching, and teaching School without License; the Issue of which was, that the Justices tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, and sent him to Goal for refusing it; for which Cause also, *Lewis Laundry*, *Thomas Moss*, *Stephen Fetherstone*, *John Eaton*, *Robert Goodes*, and *Samuel Dun*, were also committed to Prison: As were likewise, *John Rallet*, *William Special*, *Samuel Special*, *Clement Shin*, *Henry Freeman*, *John Thorn*, *John Read*, *Edward Haridge*, *Reynold Ramsey*, *John Perien*, and *John Griffith*, who were taken from a Meeting at *Hartford*, where they were assembled about Church-Affairs, and to take Care of their Poor: They were detained some Hours at an Inn, and then carried away six or seven Miles in a Cart; when questioning the Authority of the Constable who took them, he and his Companions went in the Night for a Warrant, and next Morning carried them before Justice *Field*, who tendred them the Oath, and sign'd a Warrant for their Commitment to Prison, which Warrant he sent to Justice *Harrison*, who likewise sign'd and seal'd the same before he had seen the Prisoners: After he had thus sign'd their Commitment for refusing the Oath, he examined them whether they would take it or not. About the same Time also, *John Parker* and *John Clements* were imprisoned for refusing to Swear.

ANNO 1683. At a Quarter Sessions in the Month called *May* this Year, Bills of Indictment were preferred against *Henry Hodge*, *William Wild*, *Richard Saunders*, *Henry Nichols*, and *Thomas Watson*, and their Wives, on the Statute of 20 l. per Month, for Absence from the National Worship. The Grand Jury,

Jury, three several Times, being so often turned back by the Court, brought in their Verdict *Ignoramus*; but the Court still refusing to accept that Verdict, the Jury at last found the Bill, out of meer Compliance to the Authority of the Bench. About the same Time were taken by Warrants grounded on the Act against Conventicles, from *William Wilde, Samuel Hodge, Henry Hodge, and Henry Nichols*, Goods worth 3*l.* 10*s.*

At Midsummer Sessions this Year, *John Robins, Edward Wood, and Edward Sutton*, were committed to Prison for refusing to pay Fines imposed on them for Absence from the National Worship; and for the same Cause *Robert Cock* of *Berkhamsted*, suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 16*l.* 19*s.* *Samuel Goodacre*, for being at several Meetings, had his Doors broke open under Pretence of searching for Arms, and his Goods taken away worth 25*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*

Thomas Burr of *Ware*, for being at two Meetings, had } 26 18 0
taken from him twenty six Quarters of Malt worth

From *Sarah Warner, Anne Rash, Elizabeth Rash,* }
Richard Maboe, Abraham Horne, and Thomas Crawley, } 12 10 8
Goods were taken to the Value of

65 5 0

In this Year *Thomas Smart* and *Samuel Prior* were imprisoned upon Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*.

ANNO 1684. On the 4th of the Month called *April* this Year, *George Hagger*, having been prosecuted on the Statute of 20*l.* per Month, for Absence from the National Worship, had taken from him by the Sheriff's Officers, two Cows and two Bullocks worth 8*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*

And in the next Month twenty Quarters of Malt worth 21 0 0

Taken also from *Henry Essex* and *Jonas Pearce*, Goods worth 2 15 0

31 15 0

On the said Statute of 20*l.* per Month, and other Fines for Meetings, were taken

From *Thomas Baldock, Anthony Fage, John Reed, William Special, Reginald Ramsay, and Robert Tarnel,* } 74 8 9
Goods worth

And from *William Voke* of *Hunsdon*, seventy Quarters of Malt, three Horses, and most of his Household Goods.

And from *Thomas Godfrey* of the same Place, the greatest Part of his Household Goods to the Value of } 80 0 0

Edward Wood of *Tharfield*, was committed to Prison by Justice *Wilmot*, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance: And for the same Cause were also imprisoned in *Hartford Goal*, *Henry Hulet* and *Thomas Game*.

ANNO 1685. For their religious Meetings, *Thomas Burr* of *Ware*, and *William Simson* of *Amwell*, suffered Distresses to the Value of 41*l.* 3*s.*

On the 1st of *October* this Year, a Bayliff, named *Shelford*, came with a Warrant to the House of *Edward Sutton*, demanded 40*l.* for two Months Absence from the National Worship, seized his Goods, and threatned any Person that should offer to take any Account of them. He carried away Shop Goods, Linen, Silk, and other Goods, till the Sheriff said *he had enough*. Upon the same Statute of 20*l.* per Month, *Henry Sweeting, Edward Plumsted, Abraham Rutt, and Henry Stout*, were imprisoned and indicted for Absence from the Parochial Worship.

HART-
FORD-
SHIRE
1683.

Imprisonments
and Distresses.

Distress on
G. Hagger.

Distresses for
Fines.

Imprisonments.

Distresses.

Distress on
E. Sutton.

HART-
FORD-
SHIRE.
1689.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

Distresses for
Tithes.

ANNO 1689. About the 10th of the Month called *May* this Year, *Thomas Burr* and *Robert Dawson*, both of *Ware*, were committed to *Hartford Goal* by an Attachment out of the *Exchequer*, at the Suit of the Priest of that Parish, named *Wey*, for a Claim of small Tithes.

ANNO 1690. *Richard Thomas* was committed to Prison on an Attachment, at the Suit of *Thomas Daniel*, Priest of the Parish called *St. Andrews* in *Hartford*, for a Claim of small Tithes for fifteen Years past. Also *John Perry* was imprisoned for Tithes, at the Suit of the Priest of *Harlow*. In this and the preceeding Year, was taken

From <i>Daniel Mardall</i> , <i>Stephen Fesberstone</i> , and <i>John Siggins</i> , Corn worth	24	6	0
<i>William Martha</i> , for a Demand of 1 l. 15 s.	1	15	0
Goods worth	4	2	6
<i>Richard Millard</i> , <i>John Kilbey</i> , <i>Thomas Burr</i> , and	8	6	11
<i>Richard Thomas</i> , Corn, Grass, Household Goods, and other Things, worth	36	15	5

HERE-
FORD-
SHIRE.
1656.

At a Meeting
in a Field at
Leominster
the Preacher
pulled down,
and sent to
Prison.

Meetings
grievously
disturbed.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

ANNO 1656.

At a religious Meeting, held the 27th of the Month called *May*, in the House of *Henry Bedford* at *Leominster*, the Auditory, being more than the House could contain, went out into a Field adjoining, where a Friend was preaching to them, when the Bayliff of the Town, a Justice of the Peace, and *John Tombs*, an eminent Baptist, then Vicar there, came to the Meeting: They commanded the Preacher to desist, and because he obeyed them not, pulled him down by force, and kept him Prisoner, *Tombs* stepping up, and preaching in his Place: But another Friend at a small Distance beginning to speak, the People withdrew from *Tombs* to hear him: The Bayliff, Justice, and Vicar, ordered him to be silent, but he persisting, they caused him to be pulled down with Violence, and sent to Prison, where for some Time they would not suffer any of his Friends to come near him.

ANNO 1657. On the 10th of the Month called *May* this Year, *Giles Milton*, *William Fisher*, *James Merrick*, *Thomas Merrick*, *Walter Merrick*, *Richard Ingram*, *John Brigg*, and others, going from *Ros* to a Meeting at *King's Chapell*, were arrested by two Constables in the *Protector's Name*, and one of them was set in the Stocks: After some Time being discharged, they went to their Meeting-place, where one of them was preaching, when a rude Rabble, with Dogs and Staves, came in, whooping, halloeing, pushing their Staves in at the Windows, and throwing in Sticks and Dirt: They continued these Abuses, belching out wicked and obscene Language, during the whole Time of the Meeting, which being ended, they pursued the innocent People homeward, repeating their Insults, and striking one of them, *Giles Milton*, so violently that he became lame on one of his Arms. At another Meeting in the same Place, they struck *Edward Edwards* on the Head as he was preaching:

And

And at other Times attempted to interrupt them by sounding an Horn, ringing a Bell, and other Noises. In all which wicked and lawless Proceedings, the wild and ungoverned People were animated by their Priests and Magistrates who should have restrained them. Thus when *Rice Morgan* had offended the Priest of *Webbly*, by asking him to prove his Doctrine by Scripture; he excited his Hearers to deride and abuse him, which they did by plucking the Hair off his Head, and knocking him down. Thus also when *Richard Bruce* had angered a Baptist Teacher at *Weston* under *Pemard*, by standing before him with his Hat on, he caused him to be set in the Stocks four Hours, and after that illegal Usage procured his Imprisonment. Likewise when *John Moon* was preaching in a Meeting at *Lynaldine*, two Priests came in and opposed him, and one of them struck him such a Blow on the Face, as made his Lips swell much.

ANNO 1658. *Henry Badford* of *Leominster*, Attorney at Law, having Business to transact in the Court at that Town, was commanded by the Bayliff and Justice of the Peace, who presided there, to pull off his Hat, for refusing which they sent him to Prison. This Proceeding, however illegal, was palliated under Pretence of a Contempt of the Court. But there were some Men then in Power, whom sudden Exaltation had so swelled with Pride, that they expected a personal Homage on all Occasions, and could not forbear avenging themselves on those who withheld it: Hence it was that *John Merrick*, meeting one *Roger Bonner* on the Road, and not putting off his Hat, was beaten by him with many Blows: And at another Time for the same Cause one *Roger Kine* beat him unmercifully near half an Hour together with a Staff: And at a third Time the same *John Merrick* was sorely beaten and abused by a Servant of *John Kirle*, whose Master he had affronted by not saluting him in the customary Manner. All which Abuses the Sufferer underwent with Christian Patience, from Persons whose Actions evidently denoted them altogether unworthy of the Honour they so vainly expected.

About this Time *James Merrick*, *Walter Merrick*, and *Thomas Merrick*, having buried their Mother *Joane Merrick*, in a Piece of Ground used for that Purpose at *King's-Chapell*, were summoned by the Coroner to answer his Enquiries about her Death; because she was not buried at the Church, as he called it. A Jury was impanelled, and several Witnesses were sworn, who concurred in their Evidence of her dying a natural Death. This though fully sufficient to answer the Coroner's Enquiry, would not answer his Purpose of ensnaring the Quakers; wherefore he tendered them the Oath, which he knew they could not take, and for refusing to Swear fined them, and bound them over to the Quarter Sessions.

ANNO 1660. At a Meeting at *Hinton*, many rude People and Soldiers rushing in, pulled out those that were met, and finding in the Street *William Gibson*, just then come to Town on Horseback, thronged about him. He told them, that he came in Love to their Souls, and as he rode along, exhorted them to Repentance, when a wicked Fellow beat him and his Horse most unmercifully, after which they dragged him about in the Dirt, and kept him with the Rest, whom they took out of the Meeting, under a Guard all Night, and next Day sent two Men to conduct them to Justice *Blagney*, charging them with holding an unlawful Assembly, and breaking the King's Peace. But the Justice, a prudent Man, replied, That it was not probable they could be dangerous Persons or Peace-breakers, who being twenty three in Number, were brought to him with only two Men to guard them: And so with much Civility he dismissed them.

Toward the latter End of this Year many were committed to Prison, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, viz.

Evan Jones, *Richard Varnel*, *Francis Whiller*, *John Hill*, and *John Barker*, taken from their Houses and Employments, and *Walter Merrick* out of the Market, were sent to Prison by the Mayor of *Hereford*.

At Ross, *James Merrick*, *Thomas Atkins*, *John Merrick*, *William Beale*, *William Fisher*, *Thomas Brown*, *Giles Milton*, *John Taylor*, *Richard Ingram*, *Richard*

HERE-
FORD-
SHIRE,
1657.

An Attorney
sent to Prison
for not putting
off his Hat.

J. Merrick
beaten several
Times.

The Coroner
after needless
Trouble given
some Qua-
kers tender'd
them the Oath.

At Hinton
W. Gibson
much abused.

Prudent Obser-
vation of Jus-
tice Blagney.

Many impris-
oned for re-
fusing to
Swear.

HERE-
FORD-
SHIRE.
1660.

At Leomin-
ster many im-
prisoned for
not Swearing.

Close Confinement.

Death of
T. Languell.

His inhuman
and indecent
Burial.

Deaths of
J. Smith and
C. Jones.

Many com-
mitted to He-
reford Goal.

Richard Ingram jun. Henry Powel, Thomas Merrick, John Turner, Robert Turner, and Roger Turner, were taken, some from the Meeting, others in the Street, and some from their own Houses, and committed to the Marshall's Custody: Next Day the Oath of Allegiance was tendred them by a Justice of the Peace, who sent them to Prison for refusing it. Six of these were very poor Men, having Families dependent on their Labour, for one of whom, when five Persons in Compassion offered to be bound, the Justice refused it. Elizabeth Smith, as she was going to a Meeting, was apprehended, and Titus Meredith was taken out of his House, and both of them, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, sent to Goal.

At LEOMINSTER, *James Corren, Thomas Languell, Richard Matthews, John Shooter, and Charles Barnard, were taken out of a Meeting, and carried before the Bayliff of the Town, who tendred them the Oath, and sent them to Prison. Also Thomas Holt, Thomas Bashes, and Roger Price, were taken out of their own Houses there, and for refusing the Oath sent to Goal, and with them David Edwards, taken out of his Bed where he lay sick. In Prison some of them with their Wives and Children being found by the Keeper sitting together in Silence to wait upon God, were by him cast into the Dungeon. About the same Time John Jones, * Charles Jones, William Jones, Richard Jenkin, John Davis, John Smith, and Rice Morgan, were taken, some out of their Houses, others as they were travelling on the Highway, and for refusing to take the Oath committed to Hereford Goal; as was John Giles, a Farmer's Servant, taken from his Master's Team, which he was driving on the Road. Also John Ballard, Peter Wiche, Daniel Prince, and John Robinson, dwelling at or near Upton, were taken from their Houses and Employments, and committed to Hereford Goal, where they and others were sometimes kept so close, that their Wives were not permitted to visit them, and they were constrained to draw up their Food with a Rope.*

ANNO 1661. In the Month called *April* this Year, *Thomas Languell* died in Prison at *Leominster*: When dead, his Friends desired to have his Body to bury it, but were refused, unless they would pay the Coroner's Fees. About two Days after, the Goaler had him buried, without the Coroner's Inspection, in a most indecent Manner, the Coffin being tied by the Hangman to a Ladder, and carried by four Felons, the Hangman going before, and the Keeper following. When they put him into the Grave, the Hangman said, *He died like an Hog, and should be buried like a Dog*, adding, that *Had not the Weather been wet, they would have made a Grave under the Gallows, and have buried him there.* Thus contumeliously they interr'd a Man who laid down his Life for his faithful Obedience to the Precept of Christ, *Swear not at all.* He died in a sweet Frame of Mind, and left a good Savour behind him, both among those of his own Persuasion, and many others. In the same Month also, *John Smith* and *Charles Jones* ended their Days in the common Goal at *Hereford*, for their stedfast Observation of the same Command of Christ: They also made a pious and Godly End, and finished their Testimony with Joy.

On the 22d of the Month called *May*, an Officer of the Army, with Soldiers, rushed into a Meeting where *Thomas Briggs* was on his Knees praying: They pulled him out with Violence, and carried him with *Nathanael Smith, Thomas Bashes, Peter Wiche, John Ballard, Nicholas Dins, John Shooter, Edward Simons, Thomas Stevens, John Davis, Titus Meredith, and Thomas Reeves*, before a Justice of the Peace, who committed them all to *Hereford Goal*, where they were close confined, and suffered many Abuses from the Wickedness of the Goaler and his Wife.

On the 31st of *October* the Mayor, Aldermen, and some other Officers, came into the Meeting at *Hereford*, where the Assembly sitting in Silence, the Mayor scornfully said, *I will rouse you from your Dream*; and one of them answering, *that they*

* The said *Charles Jones* continued in Prison till he died on the 20th of the Second Month 1661.

they were met in the Fear of the Lord to worship him, the Mayor replied, I will have no more Meetings in the Fear of the Lord, and so sent both Men and Women to Prison.

In November, John Hill and Richard Vernall, peaceable and inoffensive Men, were taken from a Meeting at Hereford, and sent to Prison: After some Time they were taken out of their Beds at Midnight by the Command of one Captain Bruinton, who took them to the Guard, and caused them to be tied Neck and Heels, and afterwards to terrify them, ordered lighted Matches to be tied between the said Vernall's Fingers, pretending he would make him confess something of a Plot, but the poor Men, standing stedfast in their Innocence, were carried next Day before the Mayor, who tendred them the Oath, and sent them again to Prison, where they were kept from the rest of their Friends, with Irons on their Legs, about five Months.

ANNO 1662. In the Months of September and October this Year, the Meetings at Leominster were frequently broken up by Order of the Bayliff and other Magistrates: At the Sessions several had the Oath of Allegiance tendred them, and for refusing to take it were committed to Prison. It was usual to shut up those whom they took out of the Meetings there in a little close nasty Hole, where they were forced to lie on Straw, and sometimes so crowded that they had not Room to lie down all at once: Besides, they were constrained to ease their Bodies in the same Place, which for want of cleaning was become so loathsome, that those who came to speak to them through the Hole of the Door could hardly endure the Stench for a few Minutes: Here they were sometimes kept twelve or fifteen together several Days and Nights to the great endangering of their Health, it being a Place in the Judgment of the most mercilefs of Men unfit for any Creature; for when one of the Goaler's Turnkeys was sent to let a Woman out, a Person who met him saying, It was not a Place fit to put a Dog in, the profane Man replied, No, nor yet to put a Devil in. Yet was this dismal Place the Lodging of the faithful Servants of Christ, whom no earthly Hardship could deter from a strict Conformity to his Commands.

In this Year John Cater, Elizabeth his Wife, Elizabeth Cater his Sister, James Merrick, Thomas Brown, Elizabeth Cowles, Hannah Griffith, William Fisher, Elizabeth Milton, Margaret Chapman, John Taylor, Roger Turner, John Merrick, and Thomas Merrick, were excommunicated for Absence from the National Worship. Several of them also suffered Distress of their Goods for the same Cause: But the Cases of two poor Widows, Frances Thomas and Katharine Pritchard were peculiarly hard and moving; the former of these had five Children, all under twelve Years of Age, to provide for by the Labour of her Hands, and had very little either of Clothing or Household Stuff, having been necessitated to sell what she could toward her own and Children's Support; yet out of the poor Remains of her Goods the cruel Persecutors took a Kettle worth 5 s. and a Bolster worth 8 s. From the other Widow, seventy Years of Age, and having scarce any Goods, they took a Gown valued at 15 s. which she used to cover her with for want of Bedclothes, and for lack of it she suffered much by Cold in her extream old Age. From these Instances we may observe, that a furious ignorant Zeal for the Church, is apt to transport superstitious Bigots into Actions not only void of Christian Charity, but even beneath the Dictates of common Humanity.

ANNO 1670. Charles Barnet, a Baker of Leominster, was fined 20 l. for Preaching, and afterward for a second Offence 40 l. For which Sums all the Goods in his House, and all the Wood in his Yard, were taken away. After which Warrants were issued against him for being at Meetings, but his Goods being already taken, the Officer reported to Justice Booth, that There was nothing left but Bread, which would spoil before it could be sold: To which the Justice's Answer was, If you can't sell it, you may bring it me to give my Horses.

In the Month called July this Year, Nicholas Day of Eardsland, for a Meeting at his House, had eight Oxen taken away worth 32 l.

HERE-
FORD
SHIRE.
1661.

Profane
Speech of the
Mayor of
Hereford.
Barbarous
Usage of
peaceable and
honest Men.

Commitment
from Sessions
for not swear-
ing.

Close and un-
healthy Con-
finement.

Excommuni-
cations.

Hard Case of
2 poor Wi-
dows.

Fine for
Preaching.

Hard Saying.
Distress.

HERE
FORD
SHIRE.
1670.

Distresses.

Justices Par-
tiality.

False Evi-
dence.

Prosecutions
for Tithes.

And Thomas Holt of Wickton, for a Meeting at his House, a Yoke of Oxen and a Mare worth 22*l*.

On the 27th of September were taken by Distress for Meetings, from the said Thomas Holt, Titus Meredith, John Bacbe, Rice Morgan, Nathanael Smith, and Thomas Gwyllym, Goods worth 11*l*. 10*s*. 10*d*.

And from Richard Dolphin four Oxen worth 24*l*. Which Oxen the Officers knew to be another Man's Property, yet, regardless of Right, they took them, though at the same Time they had in View other Goods of the said Richard Dolphin's, which they might have taken.

From Peter Young of Luxton, they took two Oxen worth 10*l*. one of which, after he had been driven to Leominster Market, and no Body would buy him, returned Home to his Owner.

From Sibyl Good, Morgan Watkins, David Edwards, John Ballard, Thomas Merrick, Richard Ingram, John Cater, Robert Turner, and Henry Porbell, Cattle and other Goods worth 29*l*. 8*s*. 16*d*.

From James Merrick, Thomas Turner, William Fisher, John Hill, and Francis Wheeler, Goods worth 12*l*. 19*s*.

From John Barber, John Carter, Morgan Thomas, and Katharine Pritchard, Goods to the Value of 27*l*. 0*s*. 10*d*.

Although many of the Fines for which these Distresses were made, were either illegally imposed, or unreasonably levied, yet had the Sufferers no Redress, the Partiality of the Justices having made their Appeals to the Quarter Sessions, the only Method of Relief, altogether useless: When Nathanael Smith, as advised by Council, brought his Appeal, his Case being argued, the Jury went out, and returned with a Verdict for the Appellant; the Court refused to accept that Verdict, and sent them out again. They repeated the same Verdict six Times successively, and were as often repulsed by the Court: But the Jurors continuing steadfast in their Opinion, the Verdict was at length recorded; but the Court at the same Time directed the Officers to empanell another Jury for the next Trial. They also sent an Officer to Prison for procuring the Jury a Copy of the King's Proclamation, at their Request. But though the Verdict had been recorded, yet afterward the Justices knowing one of the Jury to be of a timorous Disposition, prevailed on him to say, *he had not consented to it*, and on that Pretence sent out the Jury again with such Threats as produced a contrary Verdict, the Men being overawed by the Court to act against their Consciences. Thus the Verdict six Times given for the Quakers was annulled, and he obliged to acquiesce under the Charges of the Appeal added to the Injustice of his first Suffering. In like Manner at the same Sessions, the Appeal of William Owen was also frustrated, the Justices telling the Jury, that the Case was like Smith's, peremptorily directed them to find for the King, which was done accordingly, one of the Jury being heard to say, *The Court is Lord of our Consciences*. So exceeding weak and ignorant were some Jurymen, and those of more Judgment were often perverted by the false Evidence of Informers, who would lightly Swear to what they did not know, for some of them seeing certain Persons walking in the Garden of Morgan Watkins, and some others sitting in his Arbour, made Oath that there was a Meeting at his House, and upon their Evidence of what they saw not, he was convicted and fined 20*l*.

ANNO 1674. Roger Pritchard, William Collier, and Thomas Pembridge, all of Amely, were prosecuted in the Exchequer for Tithes, and imprisoned about two Months, at the Suit of Samuel Matthews Vicar: Also Thomas Holt of Wickton, was prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court, at the Suit of Thomas Wooton Priest of Leominster, and committed to Prison for a Demand of about eight Groats for Tithe of Milk, and for Easter-Offerings. Likewise James Merrick was prosecuted in the Town-Court of Ross for 36*s*. demanded for Tithes, at the Suit of John Newton Priest, and had a Mare taken from him worth 5*l*.

ANNO

ANNO 1676. On the 20th of the Month called *August* this Year, *Henry Galdicott* Mayor of *Hereford*, with his Officers, came to the Meeting there, and warned the Assembly not to meet any more, telling them, *If they did, let it be at their Peril.* This Threat of the Mayor was followed for many Weeks after, with outrageous Insults and Abuses from the Populace, for

**H E R E-
F O R D:
S H I R E.
1676.**

On the 27th many Boys of the City threw Stones and Dirt into the Meeting.

*Outragious
Insults and
Abuses of the
Populace, ani-
mated by the
Mayor of He-
reford.*

On the 3d of *September*, a rude Rabble, with confused Noise and Shouting, beset the Meeting-house; some broke the Glass Windows; others with Staves beat the Hats off the Men's Heads, threw Stones among them, and stuck Burrs in their Hair; and one of them, said to be the Mayor's Son, broke the Head of *John Rea* with a Stone.

On the 10th they fired Squibs, and threw them into the Meeting; they also cast Stones through the Glass Windows, and struck a Woman on the Head with a Stone. When Complaint of this was made to the Magistrates, the Complainants were dismissed with Threats.

On the 17th the outrageous Mobb, Part of which were *Ghoristers*, or singing Boys of the Cathedral, encouraged by their Superiors, broke in pieces the Remainder of the Glass Windows with the Window Frames, and some of the Walls of the House: After Meeting they pursued the Country Friends, pelt- ing them with Stones about a Quarter of a Mile.

On the next Day a Meeting was held in their shattered House for Church- Affairs, such as relieving the Poor, helping the Widows and Fatherless, and other Acts of pure and undefiled Religion: Hither also came the Rabble, sounding an Horn, and throwing in Dirt and Stones, which hurt several. Some of them threw filthy Excrements upon the Clothes of such as were met, others got upon the House and untill'd Part of it, tumbling down Stones on the Head of one that was going in. In the Midst of these Disorders *Edward King* and *Robert Simonds*, Justices, and *Abraham Seward* Mayor elect, came, not to quell the Fury of the Rabble, but to send the Abused to Prison: To effect which, after they had threatned the Women and Children, they tendred the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy to *Roger Pritchard*, *Henry Price*, *William Oven*, *Morgan Watkins*, *Charles Barnet*, *Constantine Young*, *James Eaton*, and *Robert Woodliff*, and for refusing to Swear sent them to Goal.

*Grievous In-
sults.*

*Several im-
prisoned.*

A Day or two after this, *Walter Rogers*, a Prebend, passing by the Meeting- house, and observing the Ruins of it, said, *that they who did it were very good Boys, and had done their Work better than he thought for.* This may serve to shew under what kind of Influence the Mobb acted.

*The Mobb ap-
plauded by a
Prebend of
the Church.*

On the 24th the Rabble repeated the like Abuses, with many reproachful and wicked Speeches.

On the 1st of *October*, many rude People cast Stones through the Windows broken before, one of which struck a Woman on the Head; others threw Urine on the Heads of those that were met; another filled a Man's Hat with Excrements, and threw it in amongst them, with an hideous Noise and Shouting.

On the 22d the Constables and other Officers took the Friends out of their Meeting by force, and confined them till the Time of their publick Worship was over.

On the 29th they took *James Exton* and *John Carver* out of the Meeting, and carried them before the Mayor and other Justices, who, for refusing the Oaths, sent them to Prison, telling them *they should lie on Straw*, and com- manding the Goaler to keep them asunder.

On the 12th of *November*, the Meeting-house being by that Time repaired, and inhabited, a rude Company beset the House, and threw Stones against it: And it was said that the Mayor's Officers had directed the Rabble, *to knock out the Quakers Brains if they did not depart.* They also threatned the In- habitant *to pull the House down over his Head.*

On

HERE-
FORD-
SHIRE.
1676.

Imprisonment.

Seizures for
two Thirds of
Estates.

Distresses.

Seizures on
Exchequer
Process.

Fines levied.

Tithes of
Hops.

Distresses.

On the 3d of December, the Officers took John Barber out of the Meeting, and carried him before the Mayor and other Justices, who, for refusing to Swear, sent him to Prison: Four Days after, his Goods were seized to the Value of 26*l.* for a Fine of 10*l.* imposed on him for the House where the Meeting was.

On the 20th of the Month called January, the Mayor's Officers forced out those that were met, and would not suffer them to abide near the Place in the Street: And one of them threatened, that they would fire the Meeting-house, and broil them in it.

In this Year John Haines and Thomas Robins, both of Bodenham, were committed to the County Goal by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo. Also Nathanael Smith of Leominster, who, refusing at the Quarter Sessions to take the Oath of a Constable, had the Oath of Allegiance tendered him by the Justices.

ANNO 1677. Several of the People called Quakers in this County, being prosecuted in the Exchequer on old Statutes made against Popish Recusants, suffered much by Distresses made for pretended Forfeitures of two Thirds of the Yearly Value of their Estates, viz.

Taken from Richard Dolphin of Erdishland, Cattle worth	48	0	0
John Haines of Bodenham, two Oxen worth	9	0	0
Peter Young of Luxton, eight Oxen worth	40	10	0
Roger Pritchard and William Collier, both of Amely, an Horse, two Oxen, and other Cattle, worth	24	0	0
James Eccles of Mansel-Lary, two Cows worth	7	0	0
William Fisher, James Merrick, John Cater, Thomas Merrick, William Sparry, and Henry Powel, all of Ross, Goods to the Value of	22	19	10
	150	19	10

ANNO 1678. Taken by Distress for Meetings, From James Exton, John Barber, John Vivers, John Carver, and Robert Woodliff, Goods worth

	11	9	6
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ANNO 1679. In this Year also were taken by Exchequer Process,

From Richard Dolphin aforesaid, Oxen worth	54	0	0
The aforesaid William Fisher, John Cater, Thomas Merrick, William Sparry, and Henry Powel, of Ross, Goods to the Value of	14	15	6
From Philip Osborne of the same, Plate worth	1	15	0
Thomas Turner of Linton, Goods worth	0	13	6
Thomas Merrick of Weston, to the Value of	1	10	0
	72	14	0

John Barber, fined 28*s.* for Absence from the National Worship, had Goods taken from him worth 1*l.* 19*s.* And John Carver, for a Fine of 4*s.* for the same Cause, suffered Distress of his Goods worth 7*s.*

ANNO 1682. J. Valton of Leominster, having been prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes of Hops, at the Suit of Michael Stevens Vicar, was on a Certificate of Contumacy committed to Prison by Warrant from two Justices of the Peace.

Edward Pritchard, by Exchequer Process, for Absence from the National Worship, had a Yoke of Oxen and a Mare taken away, to the Value of 15*l.* 7*s.* Taken

Taken also from several Persons, for 6s. 11d. demanded of them for Steeple-house Rates, Goods to the Value of 2l. 10s. 5d.

ANNO 1683. On or about the 6th of the Month called July this Year, John Nourse, and two other Justices of the Peace came to the Meeting at Ross, turned out the Persons, lockt up the House, and took away the Key, so that they were obliged afterwards to meet in the Street: They also fined many of them, for which Fines were taken

From Henry Powel, Thomas Merrick, William Grindall, } 6 9 8
John Cater, and William Sparry, Goods worth }
Thomas Taylor, James Morgan, Robert Turner, }
William Beale, William Fisher, Richard Ingram, } 5 18 2
and Margery Bowen, Goods to the Value of } 12 7 10

HERE-
FORD-
SHIRE.
1683.

Distresses for
Meeting at
Ross.

C H A P. XIX. HUNTINGTONSHIRE.

ANNO 1655.

THE earliest Sufferers in this County were John Cranwell and Thomas Purcas, who, for their conscientious Refusal to pay Tithes, were committed to Prison: And while there, the former for a Demand of 12l. for Tithes, suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 21l. and the latter for a Claim of 1l. 7s. sustained a Loss of 4l. Besides which, the Priests who prosecuted them, or their Agents, took out of their Fields in Harvest, what Quantities of Corn they pleased. In like Manner the Claimers of Tithes entred into the Grounds of Ephany Taylor Widow, Thomas Golding, and William Nixon, and took, under Pretence of Tithes, what they thought fit, without rendring any Account of their Doings.

ANNO 1657. On the 19th of the Month called January this Year, Simon Sanford was prosecuted in the Exchequer for Tithes under 5s. Value, and committed to Huntington Goal, where he lay seventeen Months, till discharged by Order of a Committee of Parliament. In this and the preceding Year, several Persons for Demands of 2l. 10s. 6d. for Steeple-house Rates, suffered by Distress of their Goods to the Value of 9l. 9s.

ANNO 1658. John Apthorp was imprisoned at Huntington for Tithe, and thence removed to the Fleet in London, where having some Liberty to walk abroad, a malicious Informer represented him as a dangerous Person, and caused him to be taken by a Party of Soldiers and committed to Newgate. As soon as he was discharged thence, he returned again to the Fleet, where he continued Prisoner about a Year. Thomas Parnell also suffered many Months Imprisonment for Tithes under 20s. in Value, for which he had been prosecuted in the Exchequer.

ANNO 1659. Daniel Maddy was by some Justices of the Peace committed to Prison for refusing to Swear, but at the next Assizes was released by Judge Hales. About the same Time Richard Jobson and Thomas Jobson were taken out of their Beds, and kept under Guard at the Crown Inn at Huntington twenty four Hours: After which, though they refused to Swear, they were dismissed, but their Houses, as also that of Robert Raby, were searched for

HUNT-
INGTON-
SHIRE.
1655.

Imprisonment
and Distresses
for Tithes.

Imprisonment.

Distresses.

Persecution of
J. Apthorp
and T. Par-
nell.

Variety of
Prosecutions.

HUNTINGTON-SHIRE.
1659.

Many Imprisonments for not Swearing.

Deaths of S. Sanford and F. Lamstead.

Three detained as dangerous Persons.

Sufferings for Tithes.

Imprisonments for Meetings.

Abuses for Opening Shop.

Arms, on a groundless Suspicion of their Disaffection to the Government. In this Year also Leonard Ellington was committed to *Huntington Goal*, for coming in with his Hat on into the Court of the Mannour of *Warbois*, of which he was a customary Tenant. About this Time also, *Richard Pierpoint* and *Richard Chatteris*, of *Erith*, for appearing before a Justice of the Peace with their Hats on, were sent to Prison. At the next Sessions they were fined 10s each, and for Non-payment continued in Prison seventeen Weeks. *Thomas Swan* was also committed to Prison on the 26th of September this Year for Tithes, and continued there above two Years. In this Year for Demands of 1115s. for Tithes, were taken from several Persons in this County, Goods to the Value of 3l.

ANNO 1660. On the 12th of the Month called *January* this Year, *Robert Ingram* and *John Parnel* were taken by a Party of Horse from their own Houses, and carried before the Commissioners at *Huntington*, who sent them to the Common Goal there for refusing the Oath of Allegiance. Next Day some of their Friends visited them in Prison; of which, Notice being given, a Party of Horse surrounded the Goal, crying out, *A Meeting, a Meeting*, and those who came to visit the Prisoners were imprisoned with them: But the Day following were discharged by the Magistrates, saying, *We shall soon have them again*, for they had heard of a Meeting appointed at *Southo* on the Morrow. Accordingly some armed Men on Horseback were sent thither, who apprehended *John Crook*, *Benjamin Thornly*, *Thomas Bunby*, *Richard Jobson*, *John Deare*, *Anthony Chandler*, *Daniel Maddy*, *Thomas Marshall*, *Giles Fisher*, *William Bings*, *Henry Maddy*, and *Richard How*, who being carried before the Justices, and refusing to take the Oaths, were sent Prisoners to *Huntington*, where they found others of their Friends imprisoned for the same Cause, two of whom, *Simon Sanford* and *Francis Lamsted*, died Prisoners shortly after, the Former on the 18th of the Month called *February* this Year, and the Latter on the 7th of the next Month: In which Month also, *William Marlow*, *Samuel Nottingham*, and *Robert Gray*, were sent to Prison for the like Testimony against Swearing. At the Assizes in the same Month, called *March*, most of the aforesaid Prisoners, for refusing the Oath, were set at Liberty by Judge *Hales*; but * *John Crook*, *Benjamin Thornly*, and *Robert Ingram*, were ordered to continue till another Assize, they being causlessly represented as Ringleaders and more dangerous than the rest: *John Parnel*, though discharged as to the Oath, was by an Action laid against him for small Tithes, detained above five Years longer in Prison, at the Suit of *John Heath*, Priest of *Hemingford-Abbot*.

ANNO 1661. *Thomas Golding*, of *Colne*, was committed to *Huntington Goal* for Tithes, at the Suit of Dr. *Gunning*, (afterward Bishop of *Ely*) and continued Prisoner more than three Years. He had also taken from him a Mare worth 40s. for pretended Dues for Tithes of Wool and Lambs. About the same Time *Ellen Ingram*, a poor Widow of *Colne*, had an Horse taken away worth 40s. for a Demand of 3s. 4d. for Tithe of one Rood of Corn.

John Ainsloe, *Philip Taylor*, *Thomas Jobson*, and *Thomas Rivers*, as they were going to a Meeting, were apprehended at *Godmanchester*, and by an officious Justice sent to Prison: As were also in the Month of *October* this Year, *John Samms*, *Richard Jobson*, *William Sterling*, *Robert Smith*, and *Robert Raby*, who had been taken in a Meeting at the said *Raby's* Houle in *Huntington*. In this Year also *Robert Raby*, *Richard Jobson*, and *Katharine Lanford*, suffered many Abuses for having opened their Shops on the 30th of the Month called *January*. *Richard Jobson* was also prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for Marriage-Fees, by a Priest who had not been concerned in Marrying him, he having taken his Wife in a publick Assembly before many Witnesses, without employing any Person of that Function.

ANNO

* *John Crook*, who had been a Justice of the Peace in *Bedfordshire*, was convinced by the Preaching of *George Fox* in 1654, and soon after was left out of the Commission.

ANNO 1663. John Parnel, for refusing to pay Tithes, had seven Loads of Hay taken from him worth 7*l*.

In this Year Anne White, and William White her Son, were taken from their own House at Eltin by Constables, who conveyed them to a Justice of the Peace, and by him they were sent to Huntington Goal for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance.

ANNO 1664. On the 28th of the Month called August, of twenty Persons who were taken out of a Meeting at John Cranwell's of Erith, eighteen were committed to Prison. In this Year also Thomas Purcas of Bluntsham, and William Sterling of Godmanchester, for Absence from the National Worship, suffered Distress of Goods to the Vaule of 1*l*. 3*s*. 8*d*.

In this or the preceding Year, Robert Falkner and Thomas Bell were met on the Highway by Nicholas Johnson a Justice of the Peace, who forced them to his House, and thence sent them to Prison till next Sessions, when appearing before the Justices with their Hats on, they were sent back to Prison, where they lay till the Assizes, at which Judge Twisden seemed inclinable to discharge them, but said, *he could not, because they were not legally before him.* At an ensuing Sessions they were released by a private Order from the Justices, after twenty Weeks Imprisonment without any legal Cause. And in this Year John Peacock was excommunicated for not paying pretended Dues to the Priest.

ANNO 1667. John Parnel, at the Suit of Griffith Lloyd an Impropiator, was imprisoned in Huntington Goal, and thence removed to London. On Trial a Verdict was given against him for 9*l*. 12*s*. Tithe upon the Statute for treble Damages, for which his Goods were taken by Distress to the Value of 30*l*.

ANNO 1668. In this Year Roger Chamberlain, of Offord Cluny, suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 4*l*. for refusing to pay Tithe.

ANNO 1669. The said Roger Chamberlain had taken from him for Tithe, Corn to the Value of 20*l*.

In this Year Leonard Barringer, William Lamb, Thomas Cooke, Christopher Lindsey, and Robert Ingram, were taken from a Meeting at Somersham, and sent to Prison, where they lay five Weeks. On the 10th of the Month called August, John Crook, Thomas Parnel, and John Peacock, taken at a Meeting in the House of Leonard Ellington at Warbois, were committed to Prison till the Assizes, where an Indictment was preferred against them on the Statute of 35 Eliz. but Judge Hales declaring the Indictment to be invalid, they were set at Liberty. In the same Year Samuel Nottingham, Richard Snazdale, Edward Lambert, Richard Proud, Richard Taylor, Thomas Lorimer, William Moll, Henry Avelyn, and William Mitchel, were taken from a Meeting at the said Samuel Nottingham's House in Ramsay, and being carried before Henry Williams Justice, he tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing it sent them to Prison till next Sessions, when they were ordered to appear at the following Assizes, where they were indicted, and fined 5*l*. each, for which Fines Edward Lambert and Richard Taylor suffered Distress of their Goods; and Thomas Lorimer, William Moll, and Henry Avelin, were continued Prisoners three Months longer.

ANNO 1670. John Parnel was again cast into Prison for Tithes, at the Suit of Griffith Lloyd Impropiator. He had also taken from him Corn, for Tithes, to the Value of 46*l*.

On the 15th of the Month called July, the following Persons, taken at a Meeting in the House of Thomas Abbott of Iwes, suffered Distresses of their Goods by Warrants from the Justices, viz.

	<i>l</i> .	<i>s</i> .	<i>d</i> .	
Tobias Hardmeat, William Martin, David Tisdale,	17	15	4	Distresses for Meeting.
Robert Raby, John Apthorp, Robert Ingram, Richard Jobson, and Samuel Nottingham, to the Value of				
John Parnel, Daniel Abbott, William Gray, Reuben Eldred, Widow Abbott, William Field, and Thomas Parnel.	9	13	0	
	27	8	4	In

HUNTINGTON-SHIRE.
1663.

Imprisonments for refusing to Swear.
18 Sent to Prison.

Distresses.

Imprisonments.

Excommunication.

Prosecution for Tithes.

Distress.

Tithes.

Imprisonments.

HUNT-
INGTON-
SHIRE.
1670.

Horses seized.

Distresses for
Meetings.

In the next Month *William Starling* of *Godmanchester*, for a Meeting at his House, had his Goods taken away worth 24*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* And for the same Meeting were taken from *Thomas Lister*, an Horse and a Cow worth 8*l.* which Horse, valued at 6*l.* was sold to Justice *Williams*, one of those who issued the Warrant, for 45*s.* And the Cow, worth 40*s.* was sold to his Clerk for 16*s.* 6*d.* From *John Vintner*, for the same Meeting, they took a Cart and Wheels worth 3*l.* 10*s.*

For another Meeting at *William Starling's*, the Informers went to the Inns, and seized several of the Friends Horses before Conviction. For other Meetings in this County were taken

From <i>Robert Lister, John Lister, Tobias Hardmeat, John Parnel, Robert Stow, and John Whitehead,</i>	25	10	8
Goods worth			

<i>Tobias Hardmeat</i> at another Time, a Cow and an Horse worth	6	0	0
which were sold to the Brother of Justice <i>Heron</i> for 45 <i>s.</i>			

From <i>Tobias Hardmeat</i> at a third Time, Goods worth	7	0	0
which were sold by Inch of Candle for 2 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i>			

From <i>Christopher Maidstone</i> , for himself and his Wife, though she was not at the Meeting, Goods worth	12	0	0

<i>Thomas Parnel</i> , for a Meeting at his House in <i>King-Rippon</i> , were taken Goods to the Value of	19	0	0
which were sold to Justice <i>Johnson's</i> Servant, for his Master, for 9 <i>l.</i> 7 <i>s.</i>			

From <i>Robert Falkner</i> , for a Meeting at his House in <i>Somersham</i> , Goods worth	29	10	0

<i>Rose Pont</i> Widow, <i>Richard Snazdale, Thomas Golding, Jasper Robins, John Offty, Samuel Nottingham, and John Blake</i> , Goods to the Value of	19	12	0

<i>Richard Jobson</i> , for a Meeting at his House	8	10	0

<i>John Cranwell</i> of <i>Erieth</i> , for a Meeting at his House	25	0	0

<i>Thomas Peel, Robert Raby, Jasper Lister, John Cranwell, William Tristram, Richard Laxton, and William Field</i> , Goods to the Value of	19	19	0

172 1 8

Many of the same Persons being present at the Meetings in several Places, had repeated Informations against them, and were often distrained on, so that beside the Seizures already mentioned, there were also taken this Year

From <i>David Tisdale, Thomas Purcas, Thomas Cooke, William Wright, Tobias Hardmeat, Daniel Abbott, Francis Rogers, Elizabeth Gray, William Starling, Jasper Robins, and Rose Pont</i> , Goods worth	44	11	8
<i>Richard Taylor, Thomas Burgis, Richard Snazdale, Stephen Clarkson, Leonard Ellington, * Blanch Peacock, Reuben Eldred, Henry Gilings, John Lister, and Simon Jackson</i> , to the Value of	33	5	2

77 16 10

Taken

* Wife of *John Peacock* who was then in Prison.

CHAP. 19. of the People called QUAKERS.

265

Taken also for a Meeting at Blythorne,

From Nicholas Tomson, John Arthur, Thomas Robins,
John Leighton, William Fowler, William Bing,
and Leonard Baker, Goods worth

l. s. d.

32 6 6

For a Meeting at William Starling's in Godmanchester, were Goods taken

From the said William Starling, Samuel Nottingham,
Richard Snazdale, Rose Pont, and Wil-
liam Wright, to the Value of

l. s. d.

26 0 0

Many of these Distresses were very rigorous and severe: When Jasper Lister had all the Goods in his House taken away, he being very poor, and lame, going on Crutches, and having three small Children, desired of Justice Heron that a Blanket might be returned him to cover his Children, but that Favour was denied him. Also when William Fowler and Leonard Baker had all their Goods seized, except a few old Forms and Stools of little Value, the Justices ordered the Officers to take all worth carrying away, and to burn the rest. And when John Tomson, a very poor Man, was returned by the Officers as insolvent, the Justices ordered, that if he had two Coats, they should take one of them. Also when Robert Stow, of Ellington, had his Household Goods all taken from him, the Officers said they must distrain his Bees. These Instances shew how unmercifully the Warrants on these Occasions were executed, and how void the Breasts of Persecutors were of common Charity and Compassion.

Warrants ri-
gorously exe-
cuted.

ANNO 1671. In this Year several of this County suffered Imprisonment for not paying Tithes, viz. Thomas Ashton, who continued in Prison eighteen Months: William Newberry nine Months: Jasper Lister and Robert Lister thirty four Weeks, for a Demand of 2s. 6d. each: Tobias Hardmeat thirty Weeks: Reuben Eldred twenty Weeks: And William Starling seventeen Weeks.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

And in this Year Roger Chamberlain had taken from him for Tithes, Corn worth 4l. 5s.

ANNO 1672. Richard Johnson and Robert Raby, being elected Aldermen of Huntington, for refusing to take the Oath required on their Admittance into that Office, were fined twenty Marks each, and committed to Prison, where they continued fifteen Weeks, and were afterward sued to an Outlawry.

Fines for
not Swearing.

John Tomson and John Peacock were excommunicated for Absence from the National Worship: And for the same Cause Samuel Nottingham, William Hammond and Edward Lambert, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 16s. 6d.

Excommuni-
cations.

In this Year John Peacock, Robert Ingram, Francis Penn, Robert Whitehead, Elizabeth Throstle, and John King, were discharged from their Imprisonment in the Common Goal at Huntington by the King's Letters Patent, generally extended to the People called Quakers then under Confinement.

Release of
J. Peacock
and others.

ANNO 1674. Taken by Distress for religious Meetings,

From Tobias Hardmeat, William Gray, Roger Chamber-
lain, and Robert Alsop, Goods to the Value of

l. s. d.

2 6 8

Distresses.

For Fines imposed for Absence from the National Worship, Goods were taken by Distress,

From Thomas Cook, Edward Christenthwaite, William
Bavin, Thomas Bundy, William Gill, William
Hawkins, John Seaborn, James Fern, and John
Purcas, to the Value of

l. s. d.

3 14 0

Before these Distresses were made, several of them had suffered thirteen Days Imprisonment for refusing to pay these Fines. For the like Cause William Wright,

HUNTINGTON-SHIRE.
1675-

Fines and Distresses.

A Burial deemed a Conventicle.

Distresses.

Fines for Meeting.

Imprisonments on Writs de Excom. Cap.

Imprisonments for 16 d.

Long Imprisonments.

Wright, Edward Abbott, Robert Alsop, and John Stevenson, were also imprisoned.

ANNO 1675. On the 28th of the Month called March, John Parnel, John Peacock, Richard Taylor, Thomas Peele, Richard Jennings, John Fills, William Gills, William Hawkins, Thomas Cooke, Edward Christenbwaite, John Barringer, and Leonard Barringer, were fined for being at a Meeting at Erith, and several of them suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 2 l. 14 s.

On the 14th of the Month called June, several Persons, who attended the Interment of Robert Falkner in the Burying-ground at Somersham, were fined on the Evidence of two Informers who swore it to be a Conventicle: The Amount of the Sums taken by Distress on that Occasion was 8 l. 7 s.

On the 19th of October, for a Meeting at the House of Thomas Blundy of Bluntsham, were taken

From Tobias Hardmeat, Richard Taylor, Thomas Poole, John Barringer, Thomas Seaborn, William Bavin, John Nunn, and Benjamin Thornly, Goods worth	l.	s.	d.
	31	14	0

And for a Meeting held in the Barn of Amy Peacock of Erith, were taken

From Amy Peacock, Laurence Dunk, Richard Basse, Sarah Green, Benjamin Thornly, and Samuel Nottingham, Goods worth	l.	s.	d.
	12	0	0

And for being at several other Meetings,

Edward Christenbwaite, Richard Triplo, Thomas Peele, Thomas Burgess, Richard Taylor, and Leonard Barringer, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of	l.	s.	d.
	27	2	0

39 2 0

ANNO 1676. On the 23d of the Month called April, for a Meeting at Amy Peacock's in Erith, where George Whitehead preached, Tobias Hardmeat and Thomas Parnel were fined 10 l. each: And Richard Basse, Benjamin Thornly, Edward Christenbwaite and William Bavin, had Goods taken from them worth 2 l. 8 s. William Pryor, a young Man of Somersham was fined 5 s. The Officers came when he was in Bed, and took away all his Clothes except one Stocking. He, being poor, was obliged to borrow Clothes to wear, till by his Industry he could repair the Loss.

On the 7th of the Month called February, George Clapham was committed to Prison by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, having been prosecuted by Dr. Pocklington in the Ecclesiastical Court for not going to his Parish-Church, and for not receiving the Sacrament. For the same Causes also, William Poole, James Paris, Richard Chamberlain, Benjamin Bennett, and Nathanael Cawthorne, were severally imprisoned on Writs de Excommunicato capiendo, at the Promotion of Duellin Salmon, a Register of the Commissary Court of the Bishop of Lincoln.

ANNO 1678. John Purcas was imprisoned by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, at the Suit of William Drury, for a Claim of Tithes of but 16 d. Value.

On the 6th of the Month called March this Year, Thomas Ashton and William Newberry, were remaining Prisoners in Huntington Goal, where the Former of them had been three Years and ten Months, and the Latter three Years and five Months, both of them for Tithes, at the Suit of William Sweepson Impropiator.

In this Year also, the following Distresses were made by Warrants issued out of the Exchequer, for Seizure of two Thirds of the Yearly Value of their Estates, viz.

From

	l.	s.	d.
From Samuel Nottingham, Cattle worth	36	5	0
John Ellis, Kine and Bedding worth	8	10	0
Richard Taylor, Corn worth	30	0	0
Thomas Golding, a Gelding worth	3	10	0
And three Cows from one of his Tenants, worth	6	13	4
Richard Proud, Goods worth	3	19	2
	88	17	6

HUNTINGTON-SHIRE.
1678.

Distresses for two Thirds of Estates.

ANNO 1679. Taken by Exchequer Process for Absence from the National Worship,

	l.	s.	d.
From Nathaniel Nurse, John Offly, Samuel Nottingham, Richard Proud, and Thomas Golding, Goods worth	48	2	0

Distresses.

ANNO 1680. James Fenn, chosen Constable, and refusing to take the usual Oath to qualify him for that Office, was committed to Prison.

Imprisonment for refusing to Swear.

At the Assizes at Huntington on the 12th of the Month called August this Year, eleven Persons were prosecuted as Popish Recufants, and the Grand Jury found Bills of Indictment against them, viz. William Starling, Jasper Robins, William Wright, Robert Lister, John Lister, Thomas Lister, Thomas Robins, Richard Lanon, William Martin, John Apthorp, and William Nokes.

Indictments.

The Accounts of Corn taken out of the Field for Tithe from Persons of this Persuasion in this County, from the Year 1673 to the Year 1680 inclusive, amounted to 436l. 14s. 8d.

Tithe of Corn.

ANNO 1681. In this Year on Process out of the Exchequer, and on Presentments at the Assizes and Sessions, Goods were taken by Distress to the Value of 58l. 10s. 10d. And for Fines upon the Conventicle Act, to the Value of 5l. 1s.

Variety of Fines levied.

ANNO 1682. For Absence from the National Worship several Persons had their Goods taken by Distress to the Amount of 28l. 14s. 6d.

Distresses.

ANNO 1683. Reuben Eldred, a Miller in Fen-Stanton, had been prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes of a Windmill, at the Suit of Robert Blennel Priest of that Parish. During the Prosecution Eldred died, leaving Tobias Hardmeat his Executor. A few Weeks after his Death, the Parson cited Tobias for the same Tithes, which he, refusing to pay, was about two Years after, on a Certificate of Contumacy, committed by two Justices to Prison without Bail or Mainprize, till he should comply with the Ecclesiastical Injunctions. His Commitment was in December 1683, a Winter remarkable for Extremity of Cold. The same Priest also prosecuted Elizabeth Gray in the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes: She was a poor Widow of about eighty Years of Age, and so infirm that she could scarce go out of her House: Yet the Prosecutor was so hard-hearted, as to apply to the Justices to send her to Prison, the Ecclesiastical Court having certified her to be contumacious. But the Justices refused in regard of her Age, saying, *What do you bring this Woman to us for? she is fitter for her Grave than to be brought hither.* So they would not send her to Prison. Thus the Compassion of the Justices frustrated the cruel Intent of the Parson. But he, disappointed of his Design against the ancient Woman, cited her Son William Gray into the Court for the same Claim of Tithes, and procured a Certificate of Contumacy against him; but upon Examination before the Justices, he appearing to be only as a Servant to his Mother, they discharged him, though the Priest's Advocates, viz. Salmon a Register, and Newman a Proctor of the Ecclesiastical Court, strenuously urged the Justices to send him to Prison. Thus both Mother and Son were preserved by the Moderation of the Civil Magistrate, from being sacrificed to the arbitrary Proceedings of Ecclesiastical Power.

Tithes of a Windmill.

Case of a poor ancient Widow, prosecuted by an hard-hearted Priest.

In

HUNT-
INGTON-
SHIRE.
1683.

Death of
N. Caw-
thorne.

Imprison-
ments.

Excommunica-
tion.

Distresses.

Prisoners re-
leased.

Tithes in kind.

In the Month called *June* this Year, *Nathanael Cawthorne* was committed to the Fleet Prison in *London*, at the Suit of *Robert Purchase* Tithe-farmer of the Parish of *Wotton*. In which Prison he died on the 31st of *December*. During his Sickness, some of his Friends, considering the extream Rigour of the Season, applied to the Prosecutor to grant the poor Man a little Liberty, but could not prevail with him. Thus he laid down his Life in Confirmation of the Testimony he bore against the Antichristian Yoke and Oppression of Tithes.

ANNO 1684. About the 2d of *December*, *Richard Jobson* and *Elijah Lovel* of *Huntington*, were accused before the Mayor and other Justices of the Peace, for being at three several Meetings in the said *Richard Jobson's* House: Upon their refusing to find Sureties they were sent to Prison. At another Meeting in the same Place, *William Starling*, *John Stevenson*, *William Tristram*, *John Lister*, *Jasper Robins*, *Caleb Walker*, and *Thomas Robins*, were likewise taken and committed to Goal. They were confined in an open Chamber, the Windows unglazed, and no Chimney in it, in a cold Winter Season, where they remained Prisoners about four Months. For the same Cause also, *Joseph Fowler*, *Thomas Ashton*, and *Abigail Looke*, were sent to Prison. Several of the Persons so committed, were afterward indicted and fined as Guilty of a Riot; though nothing could be more peaceable than their religious Assemblies.

ANNO 1685. In this Year were remaining Prisoners on Writs de Excommunicata capiendo, in the County Goal at *Huntington*, *William Poole*, *James Paris*, *Benjamin Bennett*, *Roger Chamberlain*, *John Purcas*, *David Teasdale*, and *Daniel Abbott*, which two last had lain there about two Years, having been prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for a small Sum demanded toward repairing the Steeple-house at *Ives*.

Richard Snazdale, for absenting himself from his Parish-Church, suffered Distress of eleven Oxen worth 72*l.* though they were sold but for 15*l.* For the same Cause were taken from *John Barnes*, *Gabriel Hampshire*, *Richard Taylor*, *Thomas Smith*, *Tobias Hardmeat*, *Samuel Nottingham*, and *Richard Proud*, Goods worth 45*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

At the Assizes this Year, *George Clapham*, *James Paris*, *William Poole*, *Roger Chamberlain*, and *Benjamin Bennett*, were discharged from their Imprisonment by Virtue of King *James the Second's* Proclamation for a free and general Pardon.

ANNO 1690. The Accounts of Tithes taken in kind, viz. in Corn and other tithable Matters in this County, from the said People, between the Years 1680 and 1690, amounted to 1006*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*

ISLE of
MAN.
1656.

C H A P. XX.

ISLE of MAN.

ANNO 1656.

TH E Magistrates of this Place, being early prepossessed with an Aversion to the *Quakers* and their Doctrine, which the Preachers of those Times, whose Interest it thwarted, had industriously misrepresented, made Laws against them at their first coming thither, one of which was for banishing all of that Perswasion, whether Natives or others: Accordingly *Katharine Evans* was taken out of her Bed by Night, and sent away. *James Lancaster* was also expelled the Island, for no other Reason than his being a *Quaker*. *Peter Cosnock*, his Son, and several others, were clapt up in Prison at *Castle-Peel*, by Order of *William Christen* a Magistrate there; from thence they were removed to *Douglas* and banished. They applied to the Lord *Fairfax*, Governour of the Island, for Leave to return, but he would not grant it, though some of them were born there. At length, upon Application to the Parliament, such as were Inhabitants of the Place were permitted to go Home again.

Banishment of
divers from
the Island.

ANNO 1657. *William Callow* was detained eight Weeks in Prison, for publicly reproving a Priest, whom he heard abusing the *Quakers* in his Sermon to the People. The same *William Callow* and his Wife suffered a Month's Imprisonment, for admitting a Meeting at their House. Several Persons were taken out of a Meeting on the First-day of the Week, and set in the Stocks four Hours in the Market-place: Others were fined, of whom were *William Callow*, *John Christen*, and *Evan Kerush*; from the two Former ten Bushels of Oats were taken by Distress, which were laid in * *William Christen's* Barn: On the next First-day, after Sermon, the Priest gave publick Notice for the Poor of the Parish to go to the Barn and take some Corn which the Governour had ordered to be given them: Some poor People of his own Hearers answered, *That it had been more Charity to have given his own Goods to the Poor than other Mens, and that they would receive none of it.* However some of the Poor went to the Place with the Priest and Soldiers, and *W. Callow* went also. The Priest several Times called to the Poor to hold their Bags, but none of them would. At this the Priest grew angry, and lookingly sternly on *W. Callow*, calls to the People, *Why don't you take the Corn? Is there any one here that has ought to do with this Corn, or saith, that it may not be given to the Poor?* This he did on purpose to provoke *William* to say something, but could not. The Poor stood still a while, and then withdrew one by one, leaving the Corn with the Priest and Soldiers. On the following First-day the Parson again published the Distribution of the Corn as before; signifying how much the Governour was displeased that they had not taken it; for Fear of the Governour and the Priest, some poor People went again to the Place, but only one among them (named *Coole*) would take any, and he vauntingly said to the Rest, *You are so proud you will not take it: I have got this, and there will be more of his Goods taken before this be eaten, and then I'll get more.* But so it was,

Some impi-
soned.Others set in
the Stocks.The Poor re-
fuse to take
Corn of *W.*
Callow's.

VOL. I.

Y y y

that

* This *W. Christen* was a Deputy under the Lord *Fairfax*, but falling afterward under his Displeasure for some Misdemeanour, was shot to Death on the Island. In his last Speech he mentioned with much Regret what he had done to the *Quakers*.

ISLE of
MAN.
1657.

Observation.

Imprisonment
of W. Cal-
low and
others.

Remarkable
Draught of
Fishes.

Imprisonment
for frivolous
Claims of
Tithes.

Dismal Con-
finement of
W. Callow,
and E. Chris-
ten in a
Dungeon.

8 Confined in
a high Tower.

Imprison-
ments.

Order of two
Priests for
imprisoning
Quakers.

that before he had eaten what he took, he was taken away by Death. His sudden Exit was interpreted by the other Poor as a Judgment upon him; and they rejoiced that they had kept themselves clear. The rest of the Corn lay till it was spoiled, for no Body would take it, and then it was said to be cast into the Streets to the Horses and Swine. From this Instance we may justly observe, that the Innocence and Patience of Sufferers in the Cause of Religion, carries with it a Force of Conviction on the Consciences of the People, which the Arts of designing and interested Men cannot easily eradicate.

ANNO 1659. *William Callow* and several others, for 2 d. each, demanded by the Priest for Bread and Wine, which it was well known they had not received, were imprisoned by a Warrant from **James Challoner* the Governour; from whom also in September this Year the Priest procured another Warrant for the Imprisonment of *William Callow* and *Evan Christen* for refusing to pay Tithes. One Morning early, as soon as they came on Shore, having been all Night in the Wet and Cold at Sea, (for they were Fishermen) they were hurried to Prison in their wet Clothes, and detained several Days in the Midst of their Herring-Fishery, the most advantageous Season for their Business: This, however designed by their Adversary, was not prejudicial to them, for the next Night after they were released, they caught as many Fish as they were able to bring on Shore; so that they could do no less than gratefully acknowledge a peculiar Providence attending them.

ANNO 1660. *William Callow*, *Evan Christen*, and others, were again sent to Prison by the Priest's Procurement, some for Tithes of Corn, some for 2 d. each for Bread and Wine, others for Tithe of Fish, not worth 1 d. for which trivial Demands they were kept in Prison sixteen Days,

ANNO 1662. The said *William Callow* and *Evan Christen*, for refusing to pay, the Former 16 d. and the Latter 2 d. demanded by the Priest for Bread and Wine for the Sacrament, were committed to a Prison called St. Germain's in Castle-Peel, and were close lockt up in a Dungeon (under a Yard where dead Corps were buried) without Fire, Candle, or Bedding, having only Straw to lie on, and a Stone for their Pillow: Here they lay sixteen Days, till some of their Neighbours, of mere Pity, unknown to them, paid the Money, otherwise they might have perished there, their rigid Persecutors, two Priests, of whom one was the Complainant, and the other, being a Judge of the Bishop's Court, granted the Warrant for their Commitment, appearing by their Actions to value the Lives of two honest innocent Men at less than 18 d. In the Month called July, the same Persons, and some others, were imprisoned ten Days for Absence from the publick Worship: And in September, they two, and six others, were taken out of a Meeting and carried to Castle-Ruffien, where they were confined in an high Tower, without Fire or Candle, in the cold Winter, fifteen Weeks; only *William Callow*, after a Month's Imprisonment, appealing to the Earl of Derby, was permitted to go to London, where he at length obtained the Earl's Warrant for the Discharge of himself and the Rest.

ANNO 1663. The said *William Callow* and *Evan Christen*, with the said *Evan's* Father, eighty Years of Age, were committed to Peel-Castle for Absence from the Parish-Church, but after about sixteen Days Confinement were released by Order of the Bishop, who then came to the Island to be sworn.

ANNO 1664. In this Year two Priests, Judges of the Bishop's Court, issued an Order for imprisoning the Quakers, viz.

“WE have received late Orders from our reverend Ordinary to admonish the Quakers to conform and come to Church, or be committed until they submit to Law; and forasmuch as they refuse, after several Charges and

* This Governour Challoner had been one of the Long Parliament, and upon the King's Return was sent for to London, in order, as it was thought, to be tried among the Regicides: The Day he should have gone, he took something called Physick, which killed him in a short Time. He had been a violent Persecutor, and was heard to say a little before his Death, that he would quickly rid the Island of Quakers.

“ and Publications in the Parish-Church, but continue their Meetings and Refrac-
 “ toriness to all Government of the Church, and are therefore censured to be
 “ committed into St. Germain's Prison, and there let them remain till Orders
 “ given to the contrary, and for so doing this shall be your Discharge.

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“ Robert Parr.”

“ John Harrison.”

“ P. S. If they refuse to be committed by you, call for the Assistance of a
 “ Soldier from Captain Ascough. Let the Sumner put this in Execution
 “ immediately.”

By this Order the said William Callow, Evan Christen, and some others, were
 again committed to Prison on the 22d of the Month called May this Year.
 A few Days after their Commitment William Callow's Wife fell sick of a Fever,
 and was thought to be at the point of Death. Intercession was made by some
 Neighbours to the Bishop, that he, then Prisoner sixteen Miles from Home,
 might have Leave to go visit his Wife, which Liberty was with much Diffi-
 culty granted him for two Days only.

She was scarce well recovered, when, on the 18th of October, the Apparitor
 or Sumner, came to her, and the rest of the Women called Quakers on the
 Island, with an Order from the Bishop to carry them all to Prison, they being,
 as he said, all of them, both Men and Women, excommunicated; of which
 Excommunication they knew nothing till he told them. As he was conveying
 them to Prison, William Callow's Wife was found unable either to walk or ride,
 wherefore the Sumner, having represented her Case to the Bishop, was ordered
 to let her be carried Home again. The other five, namely, Jane Christen,
 Jane Kennell, Anne Christen, Mary Callow, and Mary Christen, (one of whom
 was seventy four, and another sixty seven Years of Age; a third was a poor
 serving Man's Wife, having three Children, one of whom, sucking at her
 Breast, she took with her to Prison; a fourth was the Wife of one not called a
 Quaker, having a large Family and many Children; and the fifth was a Ser-
 vant of William Callow, whom they took away from her sick Mistress) were
 carried to Castle-Peel, to the Place called St. Germain's Prison, and put into the
 aforesaid dismal Dungeon under the Burying-Ground, where the Men also were:
 When the Sumner had brought them to the deepest Part of the Dungeon, he
 took off his Hat, and formally pronounced what he called the Bishop's Curse,
 to this Effect, viz. “ I do here before the Standers by, deliver you up into
 “ St. Germain's Prison by the Law of my Lord the Bishop and his Clergy,
 “ you being cast out of the Church by Excommunication, and I do take Wit-
 “ nesses that I do deliver you over from the Power of the Bishop and his Law,
 “ to be and continue the Earl of Derby's Prisoners.” What he meant by this
 the Prisoners knew not, there being none present but himself and them: Hav-
 ing so said he left them, and they lay there many Months, enduring the Hard-
 ships of a close and unhealthy Confinement, the cruel Mercies of the Bishop and
 his Clergy.

Sumner's Or-
 der to carry
 all the Women
 to Prison.

5 Women com-
 mitted to St.
 Germain's
 Prison.

The Sumner's
 Speech in the
 Dungeon.

ANNO 1665. On the 15th of the Month called June, Henry Nowell, the
 Deputy-Governour, came to the Castle, and read to the Prisoners an Order from
 the Earl of Derby, that they must be forthwith transported into some other Land.
 On the 29th of the same Month Thomas Harrison and John Woods, two Priests,
 came to the Prisoners and told them, they were come by the Deputy-Gover-
 nour's Order, to admonish them to conform to the Church, otherwise they must be
 banished forthwith.

On the 5th of September the Commander of the Castle received an Order to
 send all his Quaker Prisoners to Douglas, which was done on the 7th; they
 were kept there guarded by Soldiers till the 14th, and then put on board a Ship,
 whereof Thomas Brittain was Master. As the Prisoners entred on one Side the
 Ship,

Prisoners put
 on Ship-board.

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Seamen refuse
to carry them.

Ship, the Seamen went out on the other into the Boat, telling the Master, that they were not hired to carry People out of their native Country against their Wills, neither would they go with him if he carried them, and so went on Shore, leaving him only a Boy or two. The Master seeing his Men resolute, and himself unable to proceed on his Voyage without them, conferred with the Soldiers, and set the Prisoners on Shore again, which being done, the Seamen returned to the Ship, and set Sail.

4 Prisoners at
Midnight put
on board two
Vessels against
the Will of
the Masters.

Carried to
Dublin.

About three Days after, several Vessels came into the Road, but all refused to carry the Prisoners. The Soldiers would have forced them on board the Ship of *Anthony Nicholson*, a *Whitehaven* Man, but he stoutly opposed it, saying, he would carry no Prisoners, except they would send a Guard of Soldiers, and Money to maintain both the Prisoners and them, and also signify in Writing the Crime laid to their Charge; adding, that if they were such dangerous Persons as were unworthy to live in their own Country, he would not trust them on Board, lest perhaps they should overpower him and take away his Vessel. This he spoke ironically. However, on the 18th of September about Midnight, four of the Prisoners, viz. *William Callow*, *Evan Christen*, *Jane Christen*, and *Mary Callow*, were * hurried out of their Beds (not having Time allowed them to put on their Clothes, some of which were left behind) and by Force two of them were put on board *Nicholson's* Ship, and the other two on board *William Crossithwaite's*, another Man of *Whitehaven*, against the Will of the Masters, from one of whom the Officer detained his Sails, and would not let him go off without the Prisoners. So they sailed to *Dublin* in *Ireland*, where neither Prisoners nor Seamen were suffered to land, till one of the Masters, *William Crossithwaite*, was examined by the Mayor, who demanded his Order or Warrant for bringing the Prisoners without their Consent, to which he answered, that he had no Warrant, but was compelled to take them on Board by one *Quail*, an Officer, who took away his Sails, and would not let him put off without them, and that his Vessel was in Danger of breaking. Upon which the Mayor gave him the following Order, viz.

Order of the
Mayor of
Dublin for
carrying them
back.

" Sir,
" YOU are hereby required to take back in your own Vessel, the four
" Prisoners called *Quakers*, which you brought against their voluntary
" Consent out of the *Isle of Man*, and them to put on Shore on the said Island,
" there to follow their necessary Occasions, of which you may not fail at
" your Peril. Dated the 27th of September 1665.

Landed at
Whitehaven.

To *William Crossithwaite*, Master of the
Ship *Elizabeth* of *Whitehaven*.

Pursuant to this Order he brought them back, but either being, or pretending to be, put by the Island through contrary Winds, he carried them to *Whitehaven* in *Cumberland*, and there put them on Shore with this Certificate, viz.

The Master's
Certificate.

" THESE are to certify whom it may concern, but especially the
" Officers of the *Isle of Man*, that I *William Crossithwaite*, Master of the
" Ship called the *Elizabeth*, of *Whitehaven*, was, by Order of the Mayor of
" the City of *Dublin*, ordered to carry back the under-named Persons into
" the *Isle of Man*, at my own proper Costs and Charges, they being sent
" out of the said Island against their voluntary Consent, and that the said
" Persons were ordered to return into my Vessel, or else to be imprisoned:
" Furthermore, my Sails were taken from my Yards, until I would promise
" to

* They purposed also to have sent away another Woman of seventy four Years of Age, but left her, being too weak to remove, lying, as they thought, at the point of Death, on a Bed of Straw.

“ to bring them back again, to wit, *William Callow, Evan Christen, Jane Christen, and Mary Callow.* ”

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Whitehaven, the 7th of
October 1665.

“ WILLIAM CROSSTHWAITE. ”

Attested by *Robert Greasons, George Robinson, William Stockdell, John Rodery.* } Mariners.

The Prisoners having given Information to a Justice of the Peace of their present Condition and Circumstances, he made the following Order, viz.

“ Cumberland *Is.*

“ JOHN LAMPLUGH Esq; one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace
“ and Quorum for the said County: To the Constables of
“ Preston, and others of the Officers of Whitehaven, Greeting.

“ FORASMUCH as Information is given unto me, that *William Cross-*
“ *thwaite* of *Whitehaven*, Master of the Ship called the *Elizabeth*, hath
“ lately brought over out of the *Isle of Man*, *William Callow, Evan Christen,*
“ *Jane Christen*, and *Mary Callow*, Inhabitants of the said Island, who are
“ said to be *Quakers*, without any Order or legal Proceedings appearing for
“ his so bringing them into this County; and since it may endanger the Peace
“ of the said County, to permit the said Persons to continue here. These
“ are therefore in his Majesty's Name to command you, that you cause the
“ said *William Callow, Evan Christen, Jane Christen*, and *Mary Callow*, to
“ be put on board the said Ship of the said *William Crossthwaite*, and he to
“ carry them upon the next Opportunity back again to the said *Isle of Man*.
“ And hereof you are not to fail. Given under my Hand and Seal the 4th
“ Day of November, Anno regni Regis Caroli secundi 17^o Annoq; Dom. 1665.

Order of a
Justice for
carrying them
back to the
Island.

“ JOHN LAMPLUGH. ”

On the 12th of December, *Crossthwate* took them on Board again, but instead of carrying them to the Island, carried them again to *Dublin*; but was not suffered to land there, till he had given Security to convey them to the Island on his Return: After which Security given they landed, and on the 25th of the same Month came on Board again: But he, contrary to his Engagement, returned with them to *Whitehaven*. Thus were these innocent People harrassed and tossed up and down in the cold Winter Season. Being landed again in *England*, the two Men went to the Earl of *Derby*, and while they were employed in fruitless Sollicitations to him and the Bishop, *Crossthwate* carried the two Women back to the Island, where they were again shut up in Prison. A few Days after his Vessel was driven on Shore by a violent Storm, and some Passengers, with almost all his Goods, were lost.

They are carried again to *Dublin*.

Thence back again to *Whitehaven*.
Fruitless Attendance of the two Men on the Earl and Bishop.
Women carried back to the Island.
Crossthwate's Vessel cast away.
They are directed by the Earl to the Bishop.

ANNO 1666. *William Callow* and *Evan Christen*, after long Attendance on the Earl of *Derby*, were by Message from him directed to attend the Bishop, then at *Windsor*, when he should come down to *Knowlsey-Hall* in *Lancashire*: He went thither some Time after, and there they got Admittance both to the Bishop and the Dean of the Island, on the 1st of the Month called *June* this Year, and had a long Conference with each of them in the Presence of the Countess of *Derby* and others, which Conferences we here subjoin, viz.

1. A DISCOURSE between the Bishop of the *Isle of Man*, and *William Callow* and *Evan Christen*, two banished *Quakers*.

A Discourse between the Bishop and banished Men.

Bishop. What have you to say to me?
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Ans. We

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Ans. We have to say to thee to let thee know, that we are persecuted and banished from Place to Place for Conscience-sake, and most of it is long of thee.

Bishop. I did not banish you: I left you fast enough when I came out of the Island.

Ans. Yet notwithstanding we know that our Banishment hath been long of thee, or else the Earl would be loth to use us there worse than his Tenants in this Country.

Bishop. You are not banisht, but you banish your selves.

Ans. Nay, we do not banish our selves, neither have we done any Thing worthy of Banishment, but are by you contrary to Law persecuted.

Bishop. I have no more to do with you, nor to say to you, but what I told you before, that if I can persuade my Lord to the contrary, you shall not go again to the Island.

Ans. Indeed we do expect no better from the Spirit of Persecution in any whomsoever: But thou art contrary to the Spirit of Christ, who said, *Do unto all Men as you would be done unto, and love thy Enemies, and not to persecute any.*

Bishop. You are not at all persecuted, but you persecute your selves, and you are the Causes of the Ruin of your own Families, and their Blood shall be upon your own Heads.

Ans. We are not guilty of our own Blood, nor yet of the Blood of our Families, but our Blood and theirs too shall be upon your Heads by whom we are persecuted.

Bishop. You are not persecuted, but banished because you do not come to the Church.

Ans. When did Christ or his Apostles banish any for not coming to hear them, as you do.

Bishop. Yes, many.

Ans. Prove it, for I cannot remember that I ever read of any.

Bishop. Did not Paul cast them out that were disorderly in the Church?

Ans. But he did not banish or imprison them that were without, if they did not come in, as thou hast caused to be done to us.

Bishop. I did not banish you neither, but excommunicate you, as he did; and I have no more to say to you.

Ans. But neither Christ, nor his Apostles, did force them that were without to come in, or else be banished or compelled, as thou hast done to us.

Bishop. Yea, Christ bade his Servants go and compell them to come in.

Ans. That was a Parable concerning a certain Man that had bidden many to a Feast, who began to make their Excuses, one of his Land, another of his Wife, another of his Oxen: Mark what he said, *They shall not taste of my Supper.* He did not say, *Banish them and persecute them.*

Bishop. You are not persecuted, but punished because you do not come to the Church, nor obey the Law, but are in Rebellion.

Ans. We are not in Rebellion, but they that act against the Spirit of Christ in their Consciences are in the Rebellion.

Bishop. But why will not you come to the Church?

Ans. We do not own your Church to be the true Church.

Bishop. Why, what have you to say against it?

Ans. It is but an House of Lime, Wood, and Stone, and therefore not a true Church, for the Church is in God.

Bishop. We matter not what you call the Place; the Congregation that meet in it is the Church.

Ans. They that meet in the Name of the Lord, and in his Power to worship him in Spirit and in Truth, we own: But they that meet to worship with the Body, and to make a Confession with their Lips of other Men's Lines made ready to their Hands; and as soon as they have done, they fight and quarrel, cheat and deceive one another, these are not the true Church of Christ.

Bishop. How shall I know that you have the Spirit of God?

Ans. Thou

Answ. Thou mayst try us; for every Tree is known by its Fruits, and an evil Tree cannot bear good Fruits, nor a good Tree evil Fruits.

Bishop. *Let me see the Spirit of God.*

Answ. Blessed are the Pure in Heart, they shall see God: But they that are not led by the Spirit of God, they are none of his.

Bishop. *All Men have not the Spirit of God.*

Answ. Yes, the Grace of God hath appeared unto all Men to profit withal, by which Salvation is witnessed.

Bishop. *Then Thieves may say, they have the Spirit of God, and cry out for Liberty of Conscience, as you do.*

Answ. That which reproves the Thief for stealing other Men's Goods is of God; but that which leads them to steal other Men's Goods, (contrary to that of God in their Consciences) is of the Devil, which Spirit we deny, and is in the Persecutor.

Bishop. *Had Simon Magus the Spirit of God?*

Answ. What was that in *Simon Magus* which did let him see his Errors, when he desired the Apostles to pray to the Lord, that what he had said might not be laid to his Charge?

Bishop. *Had Judas the Spirit of God?*

Answ. The Measure of God's Spirit, which was in *Judas*, condemned him for betraying innocent Blood, or else he had not brought back again the thirty Pieces of Silver.

Bishop. *Let me have the Liberty of my Conscience.*

Answ. We do not say any Thing against the Liberty of any Man's Conscience, while they do not act against that of God in their Consciences, which reproves them for Sin and Evil in them.

Bishop. *Then my Conscience tells me, that I must punish you, and that I do well in punishing you.*

Answ. Then the Scripture is fulfilled upon thee, which saith, *He that killeth you shall think he doth God good Service*; for that which would persecute Men for Conscience-sake is not of God, but an evil Spirit, which rules in the evil Consciences of the Children of Disobedience. And Christ said, *The Devil shall cast some of you into Prison*: And therefore the persecuting Spirit ought not to have its Liberty, for Christ came not to destroy Men's Lives, but to save them: And therefore he ought to be set at Liberty in every Man's Conscience, to lead them from Sin and Transgression into Righteousness, whereby they may be saved.

Bishop. *I thought so: You would have the Liberty of your own, but you would not that I should have the Liberty of my Conscience.*

Answ. Yea, we would that all Men might have the Liberty of a tender Conscience, to obey that of God in a pure Conscience, which makes manifest Sin, and reproves Evil, but that which would persecute Men for Conscience-sake towards God, ought not to have its Liberty.

Bishop. *But if you might have your Liberty, you would corrupt all your Neighbours about you.*

Answ. Nay, we would not corrupt them, they are corrupted enough: Swearers, Liars, Whoremongers, are all corrupted.

Bishop. *But you would be bad Examples to them to follow your Ways.*

Answ. They have seventeen Priests among them to be Examples to them, if they be good and as they ought to be; and what need they fear us, who are but two Men, if we had been as thou hast said. The People are their Hearers, and ought to follow the best Examples, whether it be us or them, or at least that of God in their Consciences, which reproves them for Sin and Evil, which we would have all Men to be guided by.

Bishop. *The Devil is cunning: He will not appear in his own Shape to deceive People.*

Answ. He appears in the Sheep's Clothing, which is the Words of the Prophets, Christ, and the Apostles, to deceive People while they put into their

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their Mouths; but if any will not put into their Mouths, then the Wolfe's Nature appears in them, and they will bite with their Teeth at them, and cast them into Prison, and persecute or banish them.

Bishop. *I thought you would have been better for the Punishment, but you are rather worse.*

Ans. We did think, that thou mightst have been in a better Mind, to consider what thou hadst done to us, and to our Families and Children, and to have given us thy Order to return to the Island again to them; but it seems thou art worse indeed.

Bishop. *This is all your Discourse, both in the Island and here, but you will neither give Reason nor take Reason: I have nothing to say to you, nor to do with you, neither will I consent that you shall go to the Island again, if I can help it.*

Ans. We know our Duty.

Bishop. *What is that?*

Ans. The Lord God of Heaven and Earth preserve and keep our Families in his Fear and Wisdom, and if we should not see their Faces as in the Outward Appearance, it is for our faithful Testimony to the Lord. Therefore we can freely give them up into his Hands: And the Lord God of his Mercy forgive you our Persecutors.

Bishop. *Pray not for us, pray for your selves.*

Ans. We are bound in Conscience to pray for our Persecutors, and to bless them that curse us, and though thou wouldst have cursed us in thy Excommunication, we pray for thee, and deny thy Curse.

Bishop. *I see you neither give Reason, nor take Reason, I have nothing to say to you: Go your Ways to Mr. Fletcher, and see what he will say to you.*

Ans. Thou art the Man we have waited so long for, and seeing thou art resolved to persuade the Earl against us, what should we go to him for?

Bishop. *He is the Dean of the Island, and it concerns him as well as me, and if you can satisfy him, I'll be satisfied.*

Then the Bishop's Man directed him to the Dean in his Chamber.

2. A DISCOURSE between the Dean of the Isle of Man, and the said banished Persons.

A Discourse
between the
Dean and
banished
Men.

Dean. *Come in, Friends, what would you have from me?*

Bishop's Man. They would have their Liberty.

Dean. *So I see they have, and much more they might have if they would be obedient to the Law.*

Ans. We are obedient to the Law, and for our Obedience to the Law, we are here persecuted.

Dean. *If you are obedient to the Law, what are you here for?*

Ans. We are persecuted for Conscience-sake by the Priests, and now banished (contrary to the Law of the Nation) from our Wives, Children, Families, and Estates.

Dean. *Why so?*

Ans. Because for Conscience-sake we cannot bow to their Way of Worship.

Dean. *Oh, then you are not persecuted, but punished because you are not obedient to the Law.*

Ans. We are not disobedient to the Law, but are obedient to the Law of God and Man for the Lord's Sake.

Dean. *Then your Peace is made, I'll assure you.*

Ans. Yea, we know that our Peace is made with God in Christ.

Dean. *But you must obey the Law of the Land where you live.*

Ans. Whether we must obey the Law of God, or the Law of the Land, judge thou.

Dean. *Is not our Law the Law of God?*

Ans. I deny that.

Dean. *Then go your Ways: If you deny that, I have no more to say to you.*

Ans. The

Ans. The Law of God is *Light*, and teaches People to love Enemies, and to do unto all Men as they would be done unto; but your Law is cruel, by which you persecute the innocent People of God, who have not done you, nor any Body else any Harm, quite contrary to the Law of God, which saith, *Love Enemies.*

Dean. *You are not persecuted, but punished because you do not obey the Law.*

Ans. We do obey the Law, and contrary to any just Law are we persecuted by you for Conscience-sake.

Dean. *You are not persecuted for Conscience-sake, but punished for your Disobedience to the outward Law.*

Ans. How far hath the outward Law Power over a Man?

Dean. *The outward Law hath not Power but over the outward Man.*

Ans. Then you ought not to persecute us by your outward Law, for our Obedience to the Law of the inward Man, the Light of Christ in a pure Conscience, which the outward Law hath nothing to do with, as thyself hast said.

Dean. *No more it has not.*

Ans. Then we ought to be free; for when we were sent for to Prison, we obeyed and went, and we were banished; so we cannot be accused of disobeying the outward Law: Notwithstanding all this we are still Sufferers, and that for our Conscience towards God.

Dean. *We meddle not with your Conscience at all: God forbid we should: But you must obey the outward Law, and you may keep your Conscience to your selves.*

Ans. Hast thou not read, that a Candle is not lighted to be put under a Bushel; and what befel to him that hid his Talent in the Earth.

Dean. *We do not desire you to put your selves under any Thing: Keep your Conscience to your selves; but you must obey the higher Power.*

Ans. The higher Power we own, and for our Obedience to the higher Power, who is the Light and Life of Men, we are persecuted.

Dean. *I tell you it is not Persecution, therefore call it not so; but you are punished because you will not be obedient to the outward Law, as the Apostle commanded.*

Ans. The Apostle himself withstood the Powers that then were in the World, as much as any of the Apostles did, that is to say, in what they commanded that was contrary to God's Law.

Dean. *The Apostle did not resist the outward Law.*

Ans. For what then was he persecuted?

Dean. *Because he was a Christian.*

Ans. So are we persecuted, because we are Christians, who witness Christ the Light to be sufficient to be our Teacher now, as he did then, for if he would have denied Christ to be the Light of the World, he should not have been persecuted, neither should we, if we would deny him to be our Light, which we intend not to do.

Dean. *You know not what you say, nor what Persecution is, therefore call it not so.*

Ans. Then you ought to let us alone, if you think that we know not what we say, and pray to the Lord for the Conversion of us, for Persecution hardeneth the Hearts of such People.

Dean. *But we would have you submit to the higher Power, as the Apostle commanded.*

Ans. The Apostle said, *Let every Soul be subject to the higher Power, for Conscience-sake*, and that we own, and for our Obedience to the higher Power, which is the Power of God, we are persecuted, as the Apostle was for his Obedience to the same Power.

Dean. *The Apostle was not persecuted for his disobeying the outward Law or Power, neither did he resist the outward Law as you do, but because he was a Christian, was he persecuted.*

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Answ. So are we by you persecuted because we are Christians, viz. we confess Christ manifest in us now, as he did confess in him then; and it was because the Apostle would not conform to the Jews Way of Worship, who were his Persecutors, that he was persecuted.

Dean. *But they were dark, wicked, and Unbelievers.*

Answ. So are all Persecutors in Darkness now, as they were then: We are now persecuted by you who pretend your selves to be Christians: So both they and you are found in one Spirit, persecuting the Innocent for their good Conscience, and their Obedience to the higher Power.

Dean. *You do not obey the higher Power in Church and State; the Law which we have here in England, and you have in the Isle of Man.*

Answ. Yea, we are obedient to the higher Power both of Church and State, for the Church is in God, who is the Power, State, and Stay of all the true Churches built upon Christ, the Corner Stone, whom the wise Builders of the World did reject, who daubed with untempered Mortar, as you do now, who were the Persecutors in all Ages, and upon which Stone the Persecutors in all Ages have been broken to pieces, that ever fought against it.

N. B. Toward the End of the Conference, the Countess and also the Bishop came into the Dean's Apartment.

Countess of Derby. *What is it then that you do hold to be the higher Power.*

Answ. The Power of God, which crucified Paul to the World, and the World to him.

Countess. *It is true.*

Bishop. *What will you say of St. James, who says, We must obey the King. Will you make the King God.*

Answ. We do own the King's Power over the outward Man, but I hope you will allow the Power of God, who is King of Kings, to be above the King's Power.

Countess. *It is true: The Power of God is above the King's Power.*

Answ. We own both, and for our Obedience to the Power of God, the higher Power, we are persecuted, and do stand here this Day under Persecution, desiring an Order for our Return to our native Country.

They return to
see their Fa-
milies, but
are not suf-
fered to land.

Thus the Conferences ended, but the Sufferers obtained no Redress, nor could the Bishop be prevailed upon to admit their Return, and through his Influence the Earl also was hardened against them. So they went into Cumberland, and then being determined at any Risque to visit their distressed Families, they took Shipping again for the Island, but before they could get on Shore, the Master of the Vessel, *Pickering*, was ordered not to suffer them to land, so they were detained on board till the 1st of September, when the Master sent a Petition to the Bishop, requesting that they might go on Shore till he was ready to return, and then, if required, he would carry them back to England, whereunto the Bishop answered thus,

“ I AM content that the Quakers mentioned be secured on Shore, till the Return of the Vessel, upon Security given by the Owner of the Vessel, and by the Quakers, for their Return upon his Departure from the Island.

“ ISAAC Soder and Man.”

Set on Shore
by the Bishop's
Leave.
Put again on
Board.

Driven back
to Douglas.
Their Estates
seized.

Upon this they were set on Shore, and continued at Home about a Month, till the Vessel being ready to sail, a Soldier was sent to fetch them to Ramsey, where they were kept till the 1st of October, and then put on Board by two Soldiers, *William Callose's* Wife and Relations taking their Leave of him with Tears. The Master of the Vessel also wept, compassionating their Condition, and said to *William's* Wife, *Fear not, your Husband is an honest Man: We will live and die together, and he shall want for nothing that I have or can do for him.* So he put to Sea, but the Wind proving contrary, brought them back to Douglas in the Island, where they lay two or three Days, during which Time one *Qualtrop* an Attorney took Possession of their Estates, and made an Inventory

Inventory of all they had, both real and personal, by Virtue of the following Order, viz.

ISLE of
MAN.
1666.

" The 27th of July, 1666.

" IN Pursuance of my Honourable Lord's Order, that the Estates, as well
" real as personal, of the several Persons within this Isle, who stand con-
" victed for embracing and following the *Heretical Doctrine* of the Sect com-
" monly called *Quakers*, are forfeited, and do accrue and belong to his Lord-
" ship: You are according to your said Order to repair to the said respective
" Persons, now in Possession of any such Estate, Goods, or Chattels, and take
" Security from them for the true Payment of the Yearly Rent reserved upon
" every such Estate, and also to take good Security to render a true and
" perfect Account to his Lordship, his Heirs and Assigns, of the Yearly
" Profits of such Estate or Estates, at any Time or Times, when the same
" shall be required.

Order for such
Seizure.

To Mr. Qualtrop his Lordship's
Attorney.

" ISAAC Soder and Man
" HENRY NOWELL
" RICHARD STEVENSON
" JOHN CHRISTEN
" RICHARD TYLELERLY."

On the 5th of October they set sail again, and next Day arrived at New-
haven, from whence W. Callow went into Lancashire, and made Application
again to the Earl, but found no Relief; wherefore he represented his Case to the
Duke of York, and to Prince Rupert, and obtained from the Prince his Letter
to the Earl of Derby, viz.

Landed at
Newhaven.
W. Callow
returns to
London.

Whitehall, the 18th of December, 1666.

" My Lord,

" THERE is one William Callow, an ancient Tenant of your Lordship,
" in the Isle of Man, is now, it seems, turned *Quaker*, and for that
" Reason banisht the Country: I am desired by another of that Profession,
" whom I knew to be a faithful and Loyal Subject to his Majesty in the Time of
" the late War, to intreat with you for the said Callow; he assuring me, that
" he is a quiet, inoffensive Person in every Thing, save in the Matter of his
" Religion, and though I would not be an Advocate for any dangerous un-
" peaceable Person, yet in such an Instance I am induced to give your Lord-
" ship this Trouble, the Man himself appearing to me not likely to be dan-
" gerous, and also expressing with as much Respect and Reverence toward
" your Lordship, as his Profession will give him leave: If there be no more
" in it than being a *Quaker*, I do presume your Lordship may be inclined to
" restore him and his Family to their ancient Possessions, and that you may
" please to do so, is the Reason I give your Lordship this Trouble, who am

A Letter from
Prince Ru-
pert to the
Earl of Der-
by.

" Your Lordship's faithful Friend and Servant

" RUPERT."

To this Letter of the Prince the Earl returned this Answer, viz.

" May it please your Highness,

" I HAD the Honour to receive a Letter from your Highness, by the
" Hands of a *Manks Quaker*, wherein your Highness is pleased to inti-
" mate your Command to me, that he should be permitted to return to the
" Isle of Man, from whence he stands banished (with others because they are
" *Quakers*) by the Laws of that Place: I make bold to inform your High-
" ness,

The Earl's
Answer.

ISLE of
MAN.
1666.

The impris-
oned Women
being with
Child peti-
tion the Bi-
shop for Leave
to go Home.

The Bishop's
rough Answer.

W. Callow's
Letter to the
Earl of Der-
by.

nefs, that there is now in the Island not one * *Quaker* or dissenting Person of any Persuasion from the Church of *England*, and I humbly conceive your Highness, for that one Man's Concern, would not have that Place endangered to be infected with *Schism* or *Heresy*, which it might be liable to, if *Quakers* should be permitted to reside there. Having given your Highness this Account, I shall now detain your Highness no longer from your more serious Affairs. I shall only add that I am

Your Highness's most humble Servant

“DERBY.”

While *William Callow* was thus busied at *London* in soliciting for Liberty to return Home, he received a Letter from his Wife, dated the 19th of the Eleventh Month 1666, relating that she, and her Sister *Jane Christen*, *Mary Callow*, and his Daughter *Anne Callow*, were Prisoners in *Castle-Peel*, where they had been five or six Weeks, and that all their Estates, real and personal, were seized; that *William's* Father said, *he would sell the Land*, and that the Servants were about to go away and leave the House, and that, she heard, the Attorney would shortly come and take away the Goods; that both she and *Jane Christen* were with Child, and that they had writ to the Bishop for Leave to return to their Houses till the Spring, and then return to Prison, they not having wherewith to subsist there in Winter, nor Necessaries for Persons in their Condition, but that the Bishop had returned a short and rough Answer thus,

Castle-Town, the 15th of December 1666.

“IF upon Releasement they put in Security to promise to come to the Service, and conform to the Order of the Church, and all such as are excommunicated to acknowledge their Schisms, and receive Absolution, I shall so far presume upon my † Lord's Favour as to grant them Liberty, otherwise I have no Power to meddle with them, they being my Lord's Prisoners, and if they miscarry in their Health or Lives, it is wholly imputable to their own wilful Disobedience, and they must be accounted Murderers of themselves, and this is all I can say to them.”

“ISAAC Soder and Man.”

ANNO 1667. Both the *Earl* and *Bishop* continuing thus inflexible, *William Callow*, moved with the hard Estate of his Wife and Family, resolved to go again to the Island. His Motives for so doing, and his Usage there, are expressed in the following Paper of his own writing, directed

“To the Earl of DERBY.”

“HAVING formerly shewed unto thee my Condition of Imprisonment and Banishment from thy Island (about three Years and three Months at Times) from my Wife and small Children, for Conscience-sake, and though often with thee, could not have thy Order for my Return into the Island again: Therefore being in the North of *England*, and hearing that my Wife was in Prison, and had been a long Time in the Winter Season of Frost and Snow, and by Reason of the Cold, and she being with Child and likely to die, I was persuaded to adventure to see her, although it should cost me my Life, and the same Day that I came Home, (when I found my Wife in a weak Condition) I was sent for to Prison by Order from the Bishop,

* This was a Mistake, there being three Women *Quakers* then in Prison on the Island.

† The Earl of *Derby*.

" Bishop, and after seven Days was put on board a *Scotch* Vessel, and sent to
 " *England*. And now I appeal unto that of God in thee, who will let thee see
 " and know the Estate of my weak Family, who by Reason of my Banish-
 " ment, and my Wife's Imprisonment, (our Estates being seized on for thee)
 " are much destroyed, and she and the Children likely to suffer for Want,
 " well knowing that it is in thy Power to relieve us, and to restore me to
 " them, that I may be helpful for their Relief; for if I have done any Thing
 " worthy of Bonds or Imprisonment, let me suffer in my own Country, that
 " we may suffer Want all together, if it must be so, I with them, and they
 " with me, but rather that I might be helpful to them. These Things being
 " but reasonable, and it being in thy Power to grant these my Requests, I
 " hope thou wilt not always harden thy Heart, as *Pharaoh* did against the
 " Children of *Israel*, and would not let them go to their own Land, which
 " the Lord had given them, until the Lord by his Plagues and Judgments did
 " force him to let them go: Though (for all my hard Usage) I do not desire
 " that that should come upon thee, but knowing that the Lord is just, and
 " will in his own Time hear the Cry of his Elect, and of the Widows,
 " Fatherless, and Orphans: And if that be the Fast which the Lord hath
 " chosen, to loose the Bands of Wickedness, to undo the heavy Burdens, and
 " let the Oppressed go free, and to break every Yoke: And if it be ac-
 " ceptable to the Lord to visit the Widows in their Distress, surely he will
 " not take it well from thee, or those who make them Widows and Father-
 " less. So lest any Thing otherwise than what is good should come upon
 " thee, thou mayst in Time before it be too late prevent it, by granting our
 " reasonable Request, by easing us that are oppressed under thee: So no more
 " but that I wait for thy Answer, who am a Well-wisher to thee in Soul and
 " Body, even thy everlasting Welfare.

The 9th of the Seventh
 Month 1667.

" WILLIAM CALLOW.

The *Scotch* Vessel in which he was sent away set him on Shore at *Liverpool*
 in *Lancashire*, whence he went to the Earl of *Derby's* House, and laid his Case
 before him, but the Earl turned the deaf Ear to his Requests, and told him,
 If he would not conform, he should not go to poison his Island. He would at the
 same Time have given to the Earl the aforesaid Paper of his State, but he
 refused to receive it.

The Earl re-
 jects him and
 his Letter.

ANNO 1668. The cruel Usage and Banishment of the four Women
Quakers, who were remaining on the Island, is expressed in the following
 Letter written by *Evan Christen* to *William Callow*, who was then at *London*, viz:

Women's Ban-
 nishment again
 expressed in

" My dear Brother,
 " IN the Covenant of Light and Life doth my Soul entirely salute thee, and
 " I these are to inform thee of the sad Passages that our Friends have been
 " put to in the *Isle of Man*, and what Persecution they have suffered by the
 " Bishop and Soldiers there. First, Thy Wife being sick, and lying in Bed,
 " *Hugh Cloven* and *Mungo Hatley*, two Soldiers, came with an Order from the
 " Bishop to thy House, to bring thy Wife to Prison, and all the rest of our
 " Friends, and if in case they would not willingly go at their Demands, to
 " call to Captain *Ascough*, being the Captain of the Parish, that he should
 " raise the Parish to assist the Soldiers to bring two sickly Women out of their
 " Beds, with two more, to Prison, and they also said, that their Order was
 " from the Bishop to take them with them to Prison, though they should die
 " by the Way: And coming first to thy House, thy Wife being in Bed,
 " sweating and very weak, *Hugh Cloven* took hold of her by the Arm, and
 " *Mungo Hatley* took her by the other Arm, and attempted to pull her out
 " of the Bed, whereupon the Children all cried out, and several Parishioners,
 " that came with the Soldiers to assist them, also wept exceedingly to behold
 " their Cruelty towards her, however at that Time they were stopt in the

*Evan Chris-
 ten's Letter
 to William
 Callow.*

ISLE of
MAN.
1668.

“ Proceedings, and so went to *Ramsay*, and the next Day came again to thy
“ House, and took thy Wife inhumanly from thy House to Prison, and my
“ Mother also, who is between seventy and eighty Years of Age, who was
“ not able to go two Miles from her House this two Years or more, and
“ they had taken all the Goods that she had long since. Then the said
“ Soldiers came to *Jane Christen's* House, although her Husband be a con-
“ formable Man, and did the like to her, and she said to them, *What shall*
“ *I do with my sucking Child?* The Soldiers answered, *We care not if the*
“ *Dogs eat him.* So they took my Mother and thy Wife, and her youngest
“ Child about ten Months old, and *Mary Callow*, all these they carried to
“ *Ramsay* that Day, and the next Day to *Kirk-Michael*, and the third Day to
“ *Peel-Castle* Prison, which was, as we account it, sixteen Miles. So being
“ there one Night, the Constable of the Castle came next Day with an Order
“ from the Bishop to send them back again to *Ramsay*, which accordingly was
“ done by the same Soldiers, who delivered them to Captain *Ascough*, where
“ they were detained several Weeks, till *George Pickering's* Vessel was ready,
“ and *Alice Coward* being there before them to be banished with them, although
“ her Husband was and is a comfortable Man, the said *Ascough* searched her,
“ and took from her 40s. in Money, and gave her 10s. back: And when
“ the Vessel was ready, Captain *Ascough* brought them to the Boat, and the
“ Children being with them weeping, thy Wife would have taken her Children
“ with her, but the said Captain took them by Violence from her, and also
“ said, that the Bishop had given Orders to take their Clothes from them if
“ they would not pay their Fees; and so the Boat being ashore, he forced
“ them all on Board, and put to Sea, and so left the four Children weeping
“ and mourning on the Sea-shore, only let thy Wife take her youngest
“ Child with her, and left the other four without Father or Mother; and
“ also banished *Jane Christen* and her youngest Child, and left her other
“ five Children behind her; also banished my Mother of the Age aforesaid,
“ and *Mary Callow*, and on the 13th of the Second Month (called *April*) 1668,
“ they landed at *Whitehaven*, and so with the Remembrance of our dear Love
“ to thee in that which changes not, I rest

“ Thy truly loving Brother

“ EVAN CHRISTEN.”

Sale of their
Estates pub-
lished.

Soon after the Banishment of these Women, the Bishop caused a Publication to be made in every Steeple-house in *Garfesdaen*, three several First-days, that whosoever would come and compound for *William Callow's* Estate, he and his Commissioners would give them an Assurance of it for ever.

The banished Persons having continued a considerable Time in *England*, the Justices of the Peace in *Cumberland* issued a Warrant for sending them back to the *Isle of Man*, a Copy of which is as follows, viz.

“ *Cumberland* is.

Warrant for
sending the
Banished
again to the
Island.

“ WHEREAS Information is given unto us, that *William Callow* and
“ *Anne* his Wife, and *Margaret* his Daughter, *Jane Christen* and *Evan*
“ her Son, *Alice Coward* and *Katharine* her Daughter, and *Mary Callow*, all
“ Inhabitants of the *Isle of Man*, have been lately brought over into this
“ County, whereby they being brought over from their Estates, they may
“ be a Charge to the same, and it not appearing, that there hath been
“ any legal Proceeding against them or any of them to prohibit them from
“ their said Habitations: These are in his Majesty's Name therefore to require
“ you and every of you, that you see the Parties above-named put on Board
“ and shipped, to be reconveyed to the said Island, where their Habitations
“ are as aforesaid, in some *Manks* Vessel or other by the first Opportunity, and
“ also that you give Notice to the Masters and Owners of the Vessels be-
“ longing

"longing to the Port of *Newhaven*, that they for the future forbear to bring
 "any such Passengers over, for which they cannot give a good Account of
 "their legal Passage into the said County, and hereof you are not to fail, as
 "you and every of you will answer the Contrary at your Peril. Given under
 "our Hands and Seals the 15th of *March*, in the 21st Year of the Reign of
 "our Sovereign Lord King *Charles the Second*, &c. 1668.

ISLE of
 MAN.
 1668.

To all and every the Constables
 of the Parish of *St. Bees*,
 and especially the Constables
 of *Whitehaven*. These.

"JOHN LAMPLUGH.
 "EDWARD STANDLY."

ANNO 1669. Pursuant to the aforesaid Warrant, on the 13th of the
 Month called *May*, *William Callow* and his Wife, with *Jane Christen*, and their
 two young Children returned, and were landed about ten next Morning at
Douglas in the Island. Soon after their Landing a Custom-house Officer,
 with a Soldier, came and searched them for Letters and Books, and then
 taking the Owner of the Vessel with them, went to the Governour about six
 Miles distant, and returned in the Night with the following Order, viz.

Landed again
 at Douglas.

"FORASMUCH as there hath been a legal Proceeding against
 "William Callow and Alice his Wife, and Jane Christen, all of the fac-
 "tious Sect called *Quakers*, for their Continuance beyond the Seas out of this
 "Island, according to my Honourable Lord's Order, which for a Season
 "hath been effected, but lately being given to understand, that one *John*
 "Christian of *Ramsay* hath brought the said Persons into this Isle: I do
 "therefore strictly require you that the said Persons be put on Board by you,
 "and the Assistance of Constable *Quail*, in the Boat or Ship of the said *John*
 "Christian, and there to continue until he doth again transport the said Per-
 "sons out of this Isle again to some other Country, according to former
 "Order made to that End. Mr. Water-Bayliff *Cannell* and his Customers,
 "are to take great Care that they suffer no such Persons to be landed for the
 "future: Also while these Persons do reside in the Isle, no Person or Persons
 "is to be admitted to talk with them, or in any wise to come in their Company.

Order to the
 Shipmaster
 again to trans-
 port them.

To Water-Bayliff *Cannell*, and
 all Officers and Soldiers to
 give Assistance to see this Or-
 der put in Execution.

"HENRY NOWELL."

In Consequence of this Order, they took *William Callow*, his Wife, and
 Sister, out of their Beds, and put them on board the Ship again in such an
 Hurry, that the Women were obliged to take their Children naked in their
 Aprons, crying through the Streets in the Night: Being put on Board, a
 Watch was appointed to keep them there, and when *Jane Christen's* Husband,
 and other of their Relations, came next Day to see them, they were driven
 away and not suffered to speak to them. About Sun-set the Vessel set sail, and
 arrived on the 18th of the same Month at *Dublin*, where they continued till
 the 24th, when the Lord-Mayor of that City made the following Order, viz.

Taken out of
 their Beds and
 hurried on
 Shipboard.

Arrived at
 Dublin.

"WHEREAS Complaint is made before and by some of the Al-
 "dermen of this City, and others Inhabitants of this City, that there
 "hath been landed here several Persons brought into this City out of the
 "Isle of *Man*, viz. *William Callow* and *Anne* his Wife, and *Jane Christen*, all
 "Inhabitants of the said Island, without their own Consents, contrary to the
 "Law and the Privilege of the Subjects, without any legal Proceeding
 "against them; and forasmuch as the said Persons ought rather to live in
 "the said Island upon their own Estates than to be burthensome to his
 "Majesty's

Order of the
 Mayor of
 Dublin to
 carry them
 again to the
 Island.

ISLE of
MAN.
1669.

" Majesty's Subjects here, and that if they committed Crimes worthy of Banishment, they ought not to be continued here in this Kingdom, unless by legal and special Order. These are therefore in his Majesty's Name to will and require you forthwith to put on Board all and every the said Persons back for the aforesaid Island, either on board the Ship called the *Trinity of Ramsey*, or some other Vessel bound for the said Island, the Master whereof is hereby required to carry them over, and not to bring them back into this Kingdom without their own Consents as aforesaid, and hereof you may not fail. Dated in the City of *Dublin* the 24th Day of *May* 1669.

To all or any of the Constables in
the City of *Dublin*, or the
Liberties thereof.

" JOHN FORREST,
" Mayor of *Dublin*."

Hard Passage.

The Ship-
master's Com-
passion, and
The Bishop's
Cruelty.

Unchristian
Barbarity.

Ship in an
open Vessel.
Landed in
Lancashire.

According to this Order, on the 13th of the Month called *June*, they took Shipping again for the Island on board a Vessel prest to carry them, whereof *John Christian* was Master. The Wind being contrary they were five Days at Sea, during which Time the Women suffered much for Want of Provisions and Necessaries, *William Callow's* Wife being with Child, and near the Time of her Delivery: At length being come near the Island, the Master put the Women on Shore in his Boat, and the Vessel put in the next Day, being the 18th, at *Ramsay*. The Bishop and Governour being informed of their Arrival, ordered a Watch to prevent *William Callow's* landing, and on the 25th sent Soldiers to carry the Women again on Board. Accordingly the Soldiers that Night took *Jane Christen* by Violence from her Husband and Children, and put her on Board, and then, taking the Master of the Vessel with them, went to the Governour at *Castle-Peel*. The Master represented to the Governour and the Bishop, the weak Condition of the Women, and what they had suffered at Sea, and the Danger which the hurrying them on Board again must needs expose them to; but the Bishop, unmoved at their distressed Case, sent by a Messenger an Order to raise the Parish People to carry *William Callow's* Wife to *Ramsay*, and put her on Shipboard: The Messenger returning told the Bishop, that he found her in a weak Condition, and for ought they knew in Labour: The Bishop nevertheless repeated his Order, and sent Soldiers again to the House with a strict Charge to take and put her on Shipboard: The Soldiers took nine or ten Persons, Men and Women, with them, lest she should be delivered, or miscarry by the Way, and coming to the Bedside, the Soldiers bade her get up and go with them, swearing that they had Orders from the Bishop, if she would not go to carry her in a Cart, or cross an Horse's Back, adding, that if she would say she was in Labour, the Bishop ordered them to leave her at Home a Day or two, and then put her on Board. The Woman answered, *She was not well, and knew not her Hour*. So they took her Children out of Bed from her, and then scarce giving her Time to put her Clothes on, hurried her away to *Ramsay*. Three of the Neighbours, who refused to assist in this Inhumanity, were by the Bishop's Order sent to Prison. The Soldiers having put her on Board, returned to the House (after they had rifled her Pocket of four Shillings) where they found a Box of Clothes and Linen, which they took, leaving the poor Woman not one Rag of Linen or any Thing else but what she had on, saying, they had seized her Goods by the Bishop's Warrant. They were detained on Board in an open Boat, half-decked, and that so badly, that when it rained they could not sit dry. On the 6th of the Month called *July* they put to Sea, and next Day landed at *Peel* in *Lancashire*: Upon Notice of their Landing, two Justices of the Peace made an Order to send them back again in the following Form, viz.

" *Lancashire*

“ *Lancashire* is.

ISLE of
MAN.
1669.

“ **W**HEREAS Complaint is made to us whose Names are subscribed,
“ two of his Majesty’s Justices of the Peace for this County of Lan-
“ *caster*, that there hath lately been landed at *Peel* within the Parish of *Dalton*
“ in this County, several Persons late Inhabitants within the *Isle of Man*, that
“ is to say, *William Callow* and *Anne* his Wife, and *Jane Christen*, who have
“ all Estates within the said Island whereon to subsist, but have none elsewhere,
“ and are likely to be burdensome to his Majesty’s Subjects in these Parts, if
“ they shall be permitted to settle, and have been banished out of the said
“ Island, the Place of their Habitations, without any legal Proceedings, as is
“ by them alledged, or doth any Way appear to us, and not sent or con-
“ fined to any certain Place of Banishment, by any legal Authority, but
“ turned out as Vagabonds to the wide World, to the Scandal of the Laws
“ and his Majesty’s Government. These are therefore in his Majesty’s Name
“ to require you and every of you, that you put them on board the Ship called
“ the *Trinity of Ramsey*, which Vessel brought them hither, and is now at *Peel*
“ aforesaid, the Master whereof is hereby required to receive them, and to
“ convey them over to the said Island, which if he refuse to do, then you are
“ to stay the Ship, and bring the said Master before us forthwith to answer
“ his Contempt, and farther to do and receive as to Justice appertaineth.
“ Fail not hereof at your Peril. Given under our Hands and Seals the 10th
“ Day of *July*, in the 21st Year of the Reign of our sovereign Lord *Charles*
“ the Second over England, &c. 1669.

Order of two
Justices for
sending them
back again.

To the Constables within the
Hundred of Lequesdale, and
especially to the Constable of
Dalton, and to every of
them.

“ MATTH. RICHARDSON.

“ WILLIAM KIRBY.”

Pursuant to this Order, on the 6th of the Month called *August*, *William Cal-*
low and *Jane Christen* were put on Board: (*Anne Callow*, then in Childbed,
being left behind) At the same Time *Evan Christen* and *Alice Coward* were
put into another Vessel: And on the 8th they all arrived at *Ramsey* on the
Island, but were not suffered to land, but kept Prisoners on Shipboard under a
Guard of two Men, Day and Night till the 1st of *September*.

Returned to
the Island, but
not suffered to
land.

While they lay on Board they were informed that *George Pickering*, who had
been active and forward in transporting some of them, had lost his Lading and
Money, and had his Ship much damaged in *Ramsey* Haven; and that *Richard*
Bell the Owner, who had joined with the Bishop in transporting *Alice Coward*,
had been cast away on the Coast of *Wales*, and that the Vessel, Men, and
Lading, had been all lost. These Disasters administered Occasion to the Suf-
ferers, conscious of their own Innocence, to make such Observations respecting
the Divine Justice on Persecutors and their Agents, as probably any other Per-
sons in their Circumstances would have made.

Useful Obser-
vations.

On the 1st of *September* the Governour sent a Letter to Captain *Ascough*, to
send *William Callow* to him by a Soldier. In their Passage thither they came
to *Ramish* Way, where *Nowel* the Deputy-Governour dwelt: There lay a
London Ship at Anchor, called the *Tangier-Merchant*, bound for *Virginia*; of
which *Ralph Harwood* was Master. This *Harwood*, meeting *Callow*, told him,
that he had Orders to transport him to *Virginia*: *William* replied, that it was
contrary to Law so to do; and advised him to do as he would be done by, asking
him, whether he would be willing to be taken from his Wife and Children, and
Estate, without Law, and banisht to another Country. The Captain replied, that
he would not meddle with him till he had been before the Governour. So he was
had to the Governour’s House, and being brought into his Parlour, the follow-
ing Conference past between them, viz.

Order to trans-
port W. Cal-
low to Vir-
ginia.

ISLE of
MAN.
1669.

Conference
betwixt W.
Callow and
the Govern-
our.

Governour. *How dost thou?*

W. C. *I am pretty well.*

Gov. *Art thou willing to go to Virginia?*

W. C. *I have no Business there.*

Gov. *But we will send thee thither.*

W. C. *That is a Question.*

Gov. *But we will send thee.*

W. C. *I desire to know by what Law.*

Gov. *By my Lord's Order.*

W. C. *I desire to be tried according to the Laws of this Place.*

Gov. *Thou hast been tried.*

W. C. *I deny it: I was not.*

Gov. *Thou hast been banisht often, and still comest to trouble us and others, and thou art too long unpunisht, but we will send thee far enough now.*

W. C. *Send me as far as thou canst: Thou canst not send me from my God.*

Gov. *Upon my Credit thou shalt go to Virginia with Captain Harwood.*

W. C. *He has nothing to do with me until I be legally convicted, and proceeded with according to Law.*

Gov. *Thou hast been tried according to Law, and thou wouldst not conform.*

W. C. *I deny it: I was never tried by Law, nor never came into any Court to be convicted by Law.*

Gov. *What I do I will answer it, and I have written an Order for Captain Harwood to take thee away to Virginia, and thee shalt go, upon my Credit.*

W. C. *I do appeal to the Law of this Place to be tried by.*

Gov. *Thou shalt go, and thy Appeal I deny; and then read the Order he had written.*

W. C. *I deny it: Thou hast no Power to do it.*

Gov. *What I do, I will answer it, and I will warrant him.*

W. C. *Thy Warrant will stand him in little Stead out of this Place.*

Gov. *If thou wilt conform to the Law thou mayst be cleared.*

W. C. *The Benefit of the Law I desire, and if not of the Laws of this Place, I desire the Benefit of the Laws of England.*

Gov. *Thou shalt not.*

W. C. *I make my Appeal to the highest Court in England, to the King and his Council, and if there had been a Parliament now sitting, I would have made it to them also.*

Gov. *I deny thy Appeal.*

W. C. *I do call these Men to witness, that I do make my Appeal to the King and his Council, and my Cause is already before them, and I wait for their Answer.*

Gov. *I deny it: I will not accept of it.*

W. C. *If thou wilt not accept of it, but deny the King's Law to me: The Captain is a Subject; I think he will not deny it, and transport me out of my Country, and from my Wife and Children, without legal Proceedings against me.*

Captain. *Friend, I would have you submit to the Governour, for I have a long Voyage to go, no less than a Thousand Leagues.*

W. C. *Hast thou but a Thousand Leagues to go? That's not so far as David experienced, who said, that if he should take the Wings of the Morning, and fly to the uttermost Parts of the Earth, the Lord's Hand would find him out. And dost thou think that he will not overtake thee, and find thee out at the End of a Thousand Leagues; yea he will, and reward thee according to thy Works, and the Cry of my Wife and six small Children will be heard.*

Gov. *Thou threatnest the Captain.*

W. C. *I do not threaten him: There is one that will reward him according to his Works, as he has in his just Judgments done to others before him; for, Cursed is he that parts Man and Wife.*

Gov. *Take him away, Soldiers, and put him on Shipboard.*

Two Soldiers took either of them an Arm, and haled him to the Boat, and then lifted him up on Shipboard; when on Board, the Master and several of the Sailors were very kind to him, the Sailors refusing to go the Voyage if they carried him, saying, *they never heard of a Ship that carried Quakers against their Will, that ever prospered*: Upon which the Master promised them, that he would carry him no farther than *Ireland*; and accordingly on the 2d of September he set him on Shore about forty Miles North of *Dublin*. *William* went directly to *Dublin*, took Shipping, and was landed next Day at *Whitehaven*. About the same Time *Evan Christen* with his aged Mother, and *Alice Coward* also, arrived in *England* from the Isle of *Whitehorn* in *Scotland*, whither they had been carried in a Fishing-Boat, after long Confinement on board the Vessel which brought them back out of *Lancashire* to the Island, as is before mentioned, where they were not suffered to land.

Thus have we traversed an almost unparallel'd Series of Persecution, carried on many Years together, by the arbitrary Power of an inexorable Prelate, against a Christian and harmless People, for no other Cause than the Exercise of pure Religion, and keeping of a Conscience void of Offence both toward God and Man.

The next Account we find of Sufferings in this Island, bears Date

ANNO 1682. In this Year *Eleanor Stockdale*, being concerned to exhort the Inhabitants of *Douglas* to repent of the Evil of their Ways, was put into the Stocks, and after many Abuses cast into a Dungeon, and kept Prisoner eight Days: At the End of which, by Order of *Thomas Robinson* a Magistrate, and Priest of that Town, she, with *Jane Hall* her Companion, were carried by two Soldiers of the Garrison to a Vessel then lying there, to be transported; but the Master of the Vessel, a *Scotchman*, refused to receive them. Whereupon the Soldiers arrested the Ship, and the Master and Mariners left it: But the Soldiers after some Time departing, the Seamen returned and set Sail, leaving the Women on Shore. The Soldiers took away from the said *Eleanor* an Apron worth 5s. 6d.

ANNO 1683. *Robert Callow*, and the said *Eleanor*, then his Wife, were prosecuted in the Bishop's Court for being married without a Priest, and on the 17th of the Month called *July* the said *Eleanor* was committed Prisoner to the Fort of *Douglas*, and on the 21st of the same, the said *Robert* was sent to *Peel-Castle*, where he remained eighteen Days in Time of Harvest, to his great Prejudice, his Corn and Hay being in Danger of spoiling. His Wife *Eleanor* remained in the Fort five Weeks, and then by Order of Bishop *Leake* was removed to *Peel-Castle*, where she was kept Prisoner eleven Weeks, and on the 8th of *November*, by Order of *Robert Heywood* Governour of the Island, was sent to *Ramsay* to be banished. She was pulled by Force out of her Husband's Arms at the Market-Cross in *Ramsay*, and thence dragged with Violence to the Boat (the Spectators much commiserating her Case) in order to be put on board a *Scotch* Vessel then in the Harbour; but the Shipmen hoisted Sail and left her: So she was carried back to *Ramsay*, and kept Prisoner about fourteen Months longer. On the 3d of the Month called *March* following, in the Night, she was taken out of her Bed, and carried by *Edward Cursey* a Captain, and some of his Company, to the Ship of *Martin Coltrup* then at Anchor in the Bay, and bound for *Warkinton* in *England*, but the Owner of the Vessel refused to take her in, so that between the Captain's Men pushing her into the Ship, and the Seamen thrusting her off, she was much hurt: However at length they left her on Board, and the Ship sailed; but a contrary Wind bringing the Ship back to *Ramsay*, she was again set on Shore. Three Days after she was carried on Board by Night, but the Ship was again driven back to the Harbour: The next Day and Night she was kept on Board with a Guard, and the Day following brought again on Shore; and at Midnight carried on Board again, but the Wind being contrary was again set on Shore: On the 17th she was put on Board again, and carried to *England*. On her landing there, *Richard Lamplugh*, a Justice of the Peace in *Cumberland*, taking

Notice

ISLE of
MAN.
1669.

He is by
Force put on
Shipboard.
Seamen refuse
to go the
Voyage, and
put him on
Shore in Ire-
land.

Sufferings of
E. Stockdale,
and J. Hall.

More Suffer-
ings of Ro-
bert Callow,
and Eleanor
his Wife.

A Series of
cruel Usage
of an inno-
cent Woman.

ISLE of
MAN-
1684.

Eleanor Cal-
low, great
with Child,
imprisoned by
Procurement
of three
Priests, more
cruel than Sol-
diers.
Their Cruelty
over-ruled by
the Gover-
nour.

Sent again to
Prison with
her sick Child.
The Gover-
nour's angry
Answer to a
Constable.

Imprisonment
and Distress
for Tithes.

Imprison-
ments.

Notice of the Illegality of the Proceeding against her, obliged the said *Coltrup*, at the next Return of his Vessel, to carry her back to the Island, where she continued at Home with her Husband twelve Weeks: After which

ANNO 1684. By the Procurement of three Priests, who bore great Sway in the Island, she was again committed to *Peel-Castle*, being then great with Child. She petitioned the Priests for Liberty to stay at Home while in that Condition, but was denied, and continued several Months in Prison till the Time of her Delivery drew nigh, when the Priests were again solicited on her Behalf, but they rigidly answered, *that she might take a Bed in the Town for one Night, and return next Day to the Castle.* But the Soldiers of the Castle, more merciful than the Priests, representing to the Governour the Weakness of her Condition, and her Petition on that Occasion, he interposed his Authority, over-ruled the Cruelty of those rigorous Ecclesiasticks, and sent her Home to her Husband.

About half a Year after this, the Governour sent both for her and her Husband, and committed her again to *Peel-Castle*. She had at that Time her Child, about six Months old, sick of the *Small-Pox*: This was represented by the Constable to the Governour, but he answered, *that She and her Friends had procured her Return to the Island contrary to his Order, and therefore he would not spare her, but she should either leave the Isle, or live and die in Prison.* Accordingly she was sent sixteen Miles to Prison, and obliged to take her sick Child with her.

About this Time also, *Anne Callow* was committed to Prison at *Ramsay*, and continued there about six Weeks for Tithes, and had afterward a Cow taken from her by Distress worth 19s. Likewise *Robert Callow* and his Mother, for 20s. demanded for Tithes, had Wheat and Hay taken from them to the Value of 2l. os. 9d.

ANNO 1685. *Robert Callow* and *John Callow* were imprisoned in *Peel-Castle* for Tithes, at the Suit of *John Allen* Priest.

Having gone through the Account of Sufferings in this Island, we return to *England*, and proceed to relate the Occurrences of like Sort in the County of *Kent*.

C H A P. XXI.

K E N T.

ANNO 1655.

KENT.
1655.

Opposition to
the Preaching
of J. Stubbs
and W. Caton
at Dover.

IN the Month called *May* this Year, *John Stubbs* and *William Caton* preached in the *Baptists* Meeting-house at *Dover*, and many embraced their Doctrine. The Magistrates sent for them, and though they had transgressed no Law, imposed a Penalty on any Person that should entertain them, upon which they were turned out of their Lodging. *Luke Howard* received them into his House, and heard them gladly: The Mayor sent four Constables with an Order to take them thence and turn them out of Town: But *Luke* insisted on it, that the Mayor had no lawful Authority to take them out of his House, who were no Malefactors, nor accused of any Crime. They tarried with him some Days, and so confirmed him in the Belief of their Doctrine, that he publicly declared himself to be of their Perswasion, and had Meetings afterward frequently at his House. On the 27th of the same Month *Stubbs* and *Caton* came to *Maidstone*; the Former went to the Meeting of

of the *Independents* there, and the Latter to that of the *Presbyterians* held in the Steeple-house: After the respective Preachers had done, they attempted to exhort the People; upon which *Stubbs* was put in the Stocks, and afterward examined by the Recorder, to whom he rendred a good Account of himself, and of his Estate, sufficient to support himself and his Family. *Caton* was sent for to his Lodging, and the Recorder askt him *Whence he came?* he answered, *From London.* The Recorder asking, *What he did at London?* he replied, *That he spent his Time in making known the everlasting Truth, as he was moved of the Lord, turning People from Darknes to Light, that with the Light they might see themselves, and be brought to Repentance.* The Recorder seeking Occasion against them, trumped up an old Statute Law, by which he pretended they were obliged to go to Service at Yearly Wages, and said *He had provided them Masters:* But they insisting on the *Illegality* of his Pretensions, and refusing to submit thereto, were shortly after sent to *Bridewell*, where they were so cruelly whipt with Cords, that the Spectators wept to behold their Usage. After which they had Irons, with great Clogs of Wood, put upon them. At the End of four Days they were sent away with a Pass by the Officers, from one Parish to another as Vagabonds; their Letters and Papers being first taken from them and burnt.

George Rose, after the Priest had ended his Sermon at *Hilbe*, began to exhort the People to turn their Minds from Darknes to Light, &c. but was haled away by the Mayor's Command, and by the rude Multitude kickt and beaten in the Mayor's Presence, and thrown down an high Place of Stone-stairs so violently, that his Life was endangered, and one of his Legs much bruised.

Henry Clarke suffered three Months Imprisonment in *Maidstone* Goal, for asking the Priest a Question in the Steeple-house at *Cranbrook*.

ANNO 1656. Taken from *Thomas Housgoe*, *John Bennet*, and *Edward Couchman*, for Demands of 1*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* for Steeple-house Rates, Clerk's Wages, &c. Goods to the Value of 5*l.* *William Beane* also suffered by Distress for the same Cause.

ANNO 1657. *Thomas Crawley* of *Elmstone*, being concerned in Christian Love to speak something by way of Exhortation to the People assembled in a publick Worship-house in the Isle of *Thanet*, was barbarously abused by striking, pinching, and kicking; infomuch that through their inhuman Usage he fell sick and languished four or five Months till he died, leaving a Wife and six Children unprovided for.

John Higgins, after the Priest had ended both his Sermon and Prayer at *Dover*, spake to the People, directing them to the Witness of God in their own Consciences, was violently dragged away to the Mayor's House, and charged with interrupting the Minister, by speaking before he had done: For it seems they had a Child to sprinkle afterward, of which he knew nothing. That Circumstance was improved against him, and the Mayor sent him to Prison, where he continued above thirty Weeks.

ANNO 1658. *Henry Rogers* of *Canterbury*, for refusing to pay 6*d.* toward the Wages of the Parish-Clerk, suffered eleven Weeks Imprisonment. And *Thomas Pollard*, for exhorting the People in the Cathedral there, was imprisoned in that City and at *Maidstone* nine Months. For Causes of the like Nature, *William Watcher* and *Elizabeth Fowler* were imprisoned; and *Samuel Fisher* was very much abused.

On the 4th of the Month called *June* this Year, *Robert Minter* of *Elmington* suffered Distress of his Household Goods, Cattle, Corn, and other Things, to the Value of 93*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* for Tithes, at the Suit of *Alexander Bradley*, Priest of that Parish. In this or the preceding Year *Bartholomew Boyking*, of *Wingham*, was committed to the Bishop's Prison without *West-Gate* in *Canterbury* for Tithes, and there detained forty Weeks, though his Prosecutor took the Corn out of his Field in Harvest, as usual.

ANNO 1659. *Edward Noakes* of *Word* near *Sandwich*, after he had suffered Imprisonment at *Canterbury*, at the Suit of *Paul Pettitt* an Impropiator, Vol. I.

K E N T.
1655.

Their cruel Whipping at Maidstone.

Sent away as Vagabonds.

G. Rose much hurt.

Imprisonment of H. Clarke.

Distresses.

Death of T. Crawley by cruel Usage.

Imprisonment of J. Higgins.

Several imprisoned.

Prosecution for Tithes.

Grievous sufferings for Tithes.

KENT.
1659.

Eliz. Adams
imprisoned.

Uneasiness of
her Prosecu-
tors.

More Suffer-
ing of Eliz.
Adams.

A remarkable
Incident.

L. Howard's
Clothes torn.

Distresses for
Tithes.

Many impri-
soned for not
swearing.

for Tithes, was removed to the *Upper-Bench* at *London*. At the next Assizes a Judgment was obtained against him, and in the Term following an Execution, by which for Tithes valued by the Jury at 20 *l.* he suffered Distress of Horses, Cows, and Cattle, to the Value of 99 *l.* Moreover, this poor Man was kept Prisoner in the *Upper-Bench* above two Years, in which Time his Wife died, and his Family suffered much by his Absence. He was also sued by the Priest of the Parish in the *Exchequer* for small Tithes at the same Time. In this Year also, *William Beane*, for Tithes valued at 5 *l.* 10 *s.* had taken from him two Oxen and an Horse worth 17 *l.* And *James Wickin*, for Tithes valued at 20 *s.* suffered the Loss of two Heifers worth 4 *l.*

About this Time *Elizabeth Adams*, for some religious Admonition given to the Priest and People at *Longden* near *Dover*, was committed to *Canterbury Goal*: One *Thomas Marsh*, a principal Man of the Parish, and his Son-in-Law, who were her Prosecutors, and upon whose Evidence she was sent to Prison, were observed not to prosper after it. The Son-in-Law fell into a Consumption, pined away and died: The old Man five Years after came to the Woman, then in Prison for Tithes, and told her *he had not slept half an Hour together in all that Time for Vexation of Mind*, and in a short Time after he ended his Life by hanging himself with his Jack-Line.

ANNO 1660. The aforesaid *Elizabeth Adams*, under a great Concern of Mind, went into one of the publick Places for Worship called *St. Margaret's*, and warned the Priest, in the Dread of the Lord, *to cease preaching for Money, and deceiving the People's Souls*: One *William Allen* dragged her out of the Place very rudely; but his Countenance, while he was so doing, instantly changed, which a Stander by took Notice of, and he answered, *If she come there a Thousand Times, I shall not touch her again*. Some Time after, having been drinking with his Companions, he rose up and took his Staff, intending to go Home, but suddenly fell down dead. Some observing Persons at that Time, who esteemed this Woman as a virtuous and religious Person, thought these Incidents which happened to her Opposers worthy of Remembrance.

Luke Howard of *Dover* went into the Steeple-house there, and sat silent, but the Priest, uneasy at his Presence, ordered him to be taken away, which some of his Hearers performed so rudely, that they tore the Clothes off his Back.

In this Year were taken for Tithes,

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>John Philly</i> of <i>Dover</i> , for 15 <i>s.</i> Demand, Goods worth	2	0	0
<i>Mark Tedman</i> of <i>Folkstone</i> , for 20 <i>l.</i> Demand, six Cows and four Mares worth	60	0	0
<i>Edward Couchman</i> , for 4 <i>s.</i> Demand, two Cows worth	13	0	0
<i>John Colvil</i> , for 15 <i>s.</i> Demand, twenty five Sheep worth	12	0	0

For Demands of 21 *l.* 14 *s.* were taken to the Value of 87 0 0

In the Month called *January* this Year, *John Bennet*, *John Martin*, *Peter White*, *Robert Couchman*, *George Martin*, *Edward Couchman*, *Thomas Nash*, *William Watcher*, *Nathanael Row*, *Thomas Skilton*, *Alexander Rimington*, *William Green*, *William Albin*, *Richard Wood*, *Thomas Lavennall*, and *James Alley*, were taken out of a Meeting at *Cranbrook*, and for refusing to take the Oaths committed to *Maidstone Goal*; as were in the same Month, *Richard Wallis* of *Alb*, who was apprehended on the Highway returning Home from his Labour; *Roger Ellis*, *Thomas Ever*, and *Ralph Young*, all of *Rocheſter*; *Robert Day*, and *Thomas Day* of *Graveſend*, *William Ockenden*, and *John Church* of *Rocheſter*, who were taken from their Houses and Employments; as was *George Girdler* of *Tenterden*: Also *John Grinsted*, *John Asford*, *Christopher Brunger*, *Thomas Scounds*, *Thomas Turner*, *John Grimshaw*, *Robert Binns*, *James Spice*, *Thomas Watkins*,

Watkins, and *William Shelley*, who were taken out of a Meeting at *Staplehurst*, and *Thomas Fox*, *Norman Clements*, *William Scullo*, *John West*, and *Thomas West*, taken out of a Meeting at *Deptford* by armed Men. These last five suffered much in Prison, being put into a Place exposed to the rude and insolent Rabble, who grievously abused them by frequent throwing in Dirt, Water, and Stones, at the Prison Grates.

KENT.
1660.

Abused in
Prison.

At *Folkstone*, *Thomas Nicholas*, *Mark Teddman*, *William Hunt*, *Thomas Hedgecock*, *Laurence Squire*, and *Stephen Goden*, were taken out of a peaceable Meeting, and by the Mayor sent to Prison for refusing to Swear, where they lay twelve Weeks.

More Imprison-
ments.

At *Hythe*, several were taken from their Meetings, and committed to Prison for not taking the Oaths.

At *Dover*, *Luke Howard*, *John Harrison*, *Francis Hawks*, *John Marsh*, *Thomas Holliman*, *Thomas Flintstone*, *Robert Letch*, *John Humerdine*, *William Bently*, *Thomas Chapin*, *Edward Warry*, *John Polley*, *Nicholas Delamain*, *John Hubbard*, *Richard Chandler*, *Thomas Collier*, *Richard Lunn*, and *Edward Lee*, were taken by Violence from a religious Meeting, by Order of the Mayor and other Magistrates, who were met at a publick Collation, and by them committed to Prison, and there detained twelve Weeks.

At *Lidd*, *Thomas Terry*, *John Edwards*, *James Hall*, *Robert Wyatt*, *Jeremy Everden*, *Richard Marden*, *Abel Burroughs*, and *Edward Humphry*, were taken at a Meeting and sent to Goal.

In the *Isle of Thanet*, *Jeremy Bartlett*, *Thomas Wood*, *Francis Bradley*, *John Moulden*, *James Andrews*, *Richard Marbrook*, *Abiezer Boykin*, and *William Yeomans*, being assembled to worship God, were taken by armed Men, and carried to a Justice of the Peace at *Canterbury*, who sent them to Prison, where they lay several Weeks.

At *Deal*, several armed Men and others rushed into a religious Meeting, and took thence *Joseph Fuce*, *Edward Salisbury*, *Thomas Ward*, *Silvester Gray*, *Richard Marbrook*, *Matthew Holty*, *Richard Every*, *James Piffey*, *Abiezer Boykin*, *William Hopper*, *William Yeomans*, *Thomas Pittock*, *John Morris*, *Joseph Stonehouse*, *Thomas Read*, *John Moulden*, *James Andrews*, *Samuel Safferay*, *Edward Simonds*, *Thomas Friend*, *Thomas Philpot*, *Thomas Kingsnod*, *Francis Stiff*, and *James Crayden*: They were all committed to *Sandown Castle*, and there kept several Days and Nights, their Friends not being suffered to bring them either Food to eat, or Straw to lie on. At length *Joseph Fuce* and *Edward Salisbury* were carried to *Dover Castle*, and there detained without any legal Examination or *Mittimus*. At the same Time were Prisoners there, *Thomas Tunbridge* and *Laurence Knott*, the Former for not paying Tithes, and the Latter had been taken from his own House and carried to the Governour, who though he confessed he found nothing against him either in Word or Deed, yet committed him to close Prison. A few Days after, *Francis Ray* and *Henry Thrume* of *Sandwich*, for refusing to bear Arms and to take the Oaths, were brought to the same Prison, and soon after them *Joseph Nicholson*, who was then just landed at *Deal* from *New-England*, was imprisoned there for refusing to Swear. The Usage of these seven Prisoners was barbarous: They were kept lockt up within two or three Doors in one Room, and not suffered to come out to ease Nature, but obliged to do it in the Room, and wash it away through an Hole in the Wall, for which they sometimes wanted Water, being denied the Liberty of fetching it from the Well in the Yard, nor were their Friends suffered to bring them either that or other Necessaries, for the Marshal had strictly charged his Servant, that he should permit no Body to come near them; and because the Man shewed them some little Favour, he was turned out of his Place, and another put in, who was so cruel, that when one of their Wives came six Miles to bring her Husband some Necessaries, he would not suffer her to come near him. When *Joseph Fuce* spoke to the Marshal concerning his Cruelty, the Marshall fell to Cursing and Swearing, for which, when *Joseph* seriously reproved him, he sent for Soldiers and caused him

Imprisonments
in Sandwich
and Dover
Castles.

Barbarous
Usage.

J. Fuce almost
suffocated.

to

K E N T.
1660.

to be dragged headlong on the Ground down many Stone-Stairs into a Dungeon-like Hole under the *Bell-Tower*, a Place very filthy, with much Man's Dung in it, over-run with Maggots and other Insects, having no Windows for Light, only some Holes cut through the Door. There he was kept two Days and two Nights, without Fire, Candle, Straw, or any Thing to lie on, but an old Blanket, nor was the Dung removed in all that Time: Afterward he had some Straw to lodge on, but for want of Air, and through the Dampness and Stench of the Place he fell sick, and after nine Days was thought to be at the Point of Death; when the Fear of being questioned for murdering him, induced the cruel Marshal to let him out, and suffer him to return to his fellow Prisoners, who with him continued there several Months, till released by the King's Proclamation.

3 others confined in a close Room.

Sufferings of J. Philly.

ANNO 1661. *Luke Howard*, *Thomas Cowel*, and *John Harrison*, all of *Dover*, were committed to the Marshal's Custody by the Governour, and confined with others in a close Room, where they were obliged to draw up their Necessaries for Subsistence with a Rope.

About this Time *John Philly*, who had been a Common-Council-Man of *Dover*, but turned out of that Office for being a *Quaker*, dwelt at *Lidd* in the Marsh: He, having heard of the cruel Usage of *Thomas Tunbridge* in *Dover* Castle, writ a Letter to the Governour, desiring him to permit the Prisoner's Wife to bring her Husband Necessaries. The Plainness of Style used in that Letter offended the Governour, and exposed the innocent Man to his Resentment, who sent a Serjeant with a Warrant twenty Miles to apprehend *Philly*. The Serjeant came to *Lidd*, and took with him a Captain of the Trained-Bands, with six *Musquetiers*, to guard the poor Man, whom a Boy might have conducted, and bring him to the Castle to the Deputy-Governour (for the Governour himself was gone to *London*) who, when the Prisoner desired to know what he had against him, frankly answered, *I have nothing against you, but seeing the Governour has committed others of your Friends, I can do no less than commit you*; and so sent him to Prison without any Examination, Charge, or *Mittimus*. The cruel Marshal put him into the nasty Hole aforesaid under the *Bell-Tower*, where he was kept above twelve Weeks, lying on Straw, and when being almost suffocated, he interceded for a little Air, it was not granted him: However, at last, when it was thought he must otherwise have died presently, he was let out and discharged. His Usage was barbarous and arbitrary, having no Crime laid to his Charge, nor any Cause assigned for his Imprisonment, only the Serjeant told him, *He had written a saucy Letter to the Governour*.

Prisoners at Canterbury.

At CANTERBURY, on the 28th of the Month called *August*, *John Perrot*, *Luke Howard*, *Robert Letch*, *Thomas Pollard*, *Henry Rogers*, *Thomas Everden*, *Robert Criton*, *Thomas Nobbs*, and *Elizabeth Pollard*, were taken by the City-Sheriff out of a Meeting, and by the Recorder sent to Prison (except the Woman) and kept there several Days without any *Mittimus*.

Excessive Distress on E. Noakes.

About this Time *Edward Noakes*, who had before suffered much at the Suit of *Paul Pettit* Impropiator, had a Demand made upon him by the same Person of 90*l.* for two Years Tithe of his Farm, the Yearly Rent of which was but 39*l.* 2*s.* And for that exorbitant Claim suffered Distress of his Horses, Cattle, Corn, &c. to the Value of 141*l.* 10*s.* In this Year also was taken for Tithes,

Distresses for Tithes.

From *James Spire* of *Sutton*, for 2*s.* Demand, a Cow worth
Thomas Tunbridge, for 7*l.* Demand, an Horse and three Kine worth

l. s. d.

3 0 0

20 10 0

For Demands of 7*l.* 2*s.* were taken to the Value of 23 10 0

James

James Wicking of *Sutton*, for a very small Demand of Tithes, had a Cow taken from him worth 5*l.* and afterwards five Sheep were taken for the Charges of distraining the Cow.

KENT.
1661.

In *September* this Year *Matthew Franklin* was a Prisoner for Tithes at *Canterbury*, and during his Confinement, his Landlord, a rash inconsiderate young Man, to whom he owed no Rent, turned his Cattle and carried his Stock off the Ground, and took Possession of his Farm, and would not suffer him to hold it any longer: For which illegal Procedure the only Cause assigned was, that *Franklin* was a *Quaker*, and would not pay Tithes to the Minister.

Illegal Prosecution of J. Wicking. Prisoner for Tithes.

In this Year also were Prisoners for Tithes, *Elizabeth Adams*, *Thomas Friend*, *Robert Minter*, *Thomas Tunbridge*, *Bartholomew Boykin*, and *William Beane*.

In *October* this Year, *John Hogbin* was imprisoned several Months for not serving among the Trained-Bands, when summoned. *Nathanael Owen* of *Seven-Oaks* was also fined and sent to Prison for refusing to bear Arms; for which Cause also *William Brown*, *Nicholas Homwood*, and *John Sladen* were committed to Prison at *Canterbury*.

Prisoners for not bearing Arms.

About this Time *William Watcher*, an honest and zealous Man, died in *Maidstone Goal*: He dwelt at *Cranbrook*, and having observed several Persons there, who for their temporal Interest had conformed to the established Way of Worship against their own Judgments, by way of Reproof to them placed on the Steeple-house-Door a Paper written thus,

Death of W. Watcher in Prison.

“**Y**OU that are called *Presbyterians*, if you join with to read or hear read the Common-Prayer-Book in Way of Worship, then will you be found Hypocrites and Dissemblers, as well as the Episcopal Men and Women were in joining to you and your Worship: So that if you turn as they did, then we conclude that all that go in at this Mass-house to worship are Hypocrites or nothing.”

An occasional Conformist, of some Figure and Sway in that Town, whom this Reproof touched to the quick, complained to two Justices, who having examined *William*, could find nothing in the Paper punishable by Law, yet to please the Prosecutor, they required of *William* Sureties for his good Behaviour, but he insisting on his own Innocence, and refusing to give any such Security, they sent him to Goal, where he lay about a Month till the Assizes, when the Judge discharged him. Soon after this, he, and *Mary* his Wife, being together at the Burial of a Kinsman, while the Priest was reading the usual Form of Prayer on that Occasion, *Mary* spake these Words, *The Blind lead the Blind till they both fall into the Ditch*. This incensed the Priest, and he excited the Magistrates to require Sureties both of the Man and his Wife (though she only had offended) for their good Behaviour; for refusing which they were sent to *Maidstone Goal*, where, after ten Weeks, he died. At the next Assizes his Wife was discharged against the Will of the Priest, who had said, *That she should lie there till she died, as her Husband had done*. A Speech denoting a Disposition to Revenge, unworthy the Character he pretended to bear, viz. that of a Minister of the Gospel of Peace.

Cause of his Imprisonment.

On the 14th of the Month called *January*, *Joseph Templeman*, *John Adams*, and *Jane Gore*, sitting quietly together to wait on the Lord, were much abused by the rude People, who broke the Glass Windows, and threw in Stones, Dirt, and Filth upon them, and shot in Arrows with a barbarous Noise and Shouting, so that it was thought a peculiar Providence which preserved them from being killed or wounded.

A cruel Expression.

Great Abuses

ANNO 1663. On the 6th of *September*, seven Persons were taken out of a Meeting at *Rocheſter*, and sent to Prison; among whom was *Katharine Evans*, who after four or five Days was released, but the Rest continued longer. On the 17th of *December*, *John Mugwell*, *Richard Mugwell*, *Thomas Pollard*, *John Dunk*, *William Wood*, *John Barrington*, and *Richard Goldbatch*, were taken from a Meeting and committed to Prison: After three Weeks they were

Imprisonments for Meetings.

KENT.
1663.

Wicking
for

fined at the Sessions in Canterbury 5*l.* each, and for Non-payment recommitted by the Recorder, who ordered them to be shut up in several Rooms, and threatned some of them, that *they should not come out as long as he lived.* At the same Sessions *Henry Rogers*, and *Robert Tritton*, his Apprentice, were fined for Absence from the National Worship, and the Lad having no Effects to make Distress on, was sent to Prison. For the same Cause *Thomas Everden*, *Anne Young*, *Elizabeth Cox*, and *John Dunk*, were excommunicated. In this Year also *Richard Greenland* of the Isle of Oxney, and *James Wicking* of Sutton, suffered Imprisonment for refusing to pay Tithes.

ANNO 1664. The said *James Wicking* was afterward committed to Canterbury Goal by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo for not paying Church-Scot, so called, and was thence removed to Maidstone Goal, where he lay nine Years. Also *Henry Wicking* his Brother, for the same Cause died in Prison on the 13th of the Month called January this Year.

Seizure of
Corn.

Illegal Acts.

ANNO 1668. *Robert Latch*, of Cherinton, had his Corn seized and taken off his Waggon, as he was bringing it Home, by a Person employed by an Improprator, who had before taken his Tithe off the Land. This Proceeding was without any Colour of Law, and was so rudely acted, that the said *Robert's* Wife, being with Child, was inhumanly abused, thrown into a Ditch among the Bushes, and stampt upon.

Distresses.

John Grinsted of Staplehurst, after Prosecution in the Exchequer for Tithes of about 5*l.* Value, had his Goods taken from him to the Amount of 40*l.*

Imprisonments
on Process
Ecclesiastical.

ANNO 1669. *Nathanael Owen* and *John Court* were committed to Maidstone Goal, the one on a Significavit of Contumacy out of the Ecclesiastical Court, and the other by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, in Consequence of a Prosecution for absenting themselves from the National Way of Worship.

Persecution at
Folkstone.

ANNO 1670. On the 15th of the Month called June, the Mayor of Folkstone sent a Serjeant to the Meeting there, who took from thence *Thomas Tunbridge*, whom he found preaching, *Nicholas Lad*, *Nicholas Homwood*, *Samuel Hambrook*, *Henry Smith*, and *Thomas Nichols* at whose House they met. The Mayor tendred to them the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing to Swear sent them to Prison. He then went down to the Meeting, and took the Names of those who remained there, fining them 5*s.* each: For which Fines he caused the Horses of *William Virgin*, *Andrew Hills*, *Thomas Friend*, and *Thomas Watson*, to be seized as they were going out of Town. The Horses were kept from their Owners about a Month, during which Time they were let out to hire in order to raise Money for the Fines, and so grievously abused, that one of them died soon after. *Thomas Tunbridge* was also fined 20*l.* for Preaching, for which they took away twenty three Quarters of Barley: And for other Meetings at the same Place Goods were taken by Distress from *Henry Smith*, *Thomas Smith*, *Thomas Breet*, *Nicholas Lad*, *Thomas Haycock*, *Nicholas Homwood*, and *Austin Hobdy*, to the Value of 1*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*

On the 14th of the Month called July, the Mayor of Canterbury sent his Warrant to fetch all the Men from the Meeting before himself and other Justices, who tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and upon their refusing to take it, committed *Andrew Weare*, *Thomas Pollard*, *Thomas Adams*, *Henry Aston*, *Richard Mugwell*, *Jasper Smith*, *Joseph Ongly*, *John Scanfield*, and *Richard Nell* to Prison; whither also *Thomas Everden* and *John Denn*, taken a few Days after at a Meeting, were sent, and both they and the others kept under close Confinement.

Distresses for
Meetings.

For Meetings held at the Houses of *Samuel Bates* at Cranbrook, and *Thomas Award* at Goodhurst, Goods were taken by Distress from *James Henbury* of Goodhurst, to the Value of 30*l.* which were sold but for 5*l.* 15*s.* And from the said *Thomas Award*, a very poor Man, Goods worth 2*l.* 10*s.* which were sold to *Tomkins* the Informer for 13*s.* he himself having so appraised them. Also from *John Hawkins*, *William Trendley*, and *Richard Bates*, they took Goods to the Value of 2*l.* 10*s.* *Samuel Bates*, for suffering the Meeting at his House, was fined 31*l.* 10*s.* for which they took away all his Goods, which did not amount

amount to that Sum. A While after, when he had got a few more Household Goods, some of which were lent him in his Distress, one Culpepper a Justice of the Peace, got in at a Window, and with an Axe broke open the Doors and let in R. Webb a Constable, whom he charged to clear the House of all that was in it. But the Constable, pitying the poor Man's Case, did not execute the Justice's Order, but delayed making any Return of the Warrant, till the Time of his being in Office was expired. The Constable for this Neglect was afterward fined 5*l*. and for that Fine had two Oxen taken from him worth 15*l*.

In this Year John Colvil and Robert Courtboppe were committed to Maidstone Goal by an Attachment out of the Exchequer, at the Suit of Richard Hope and John Hayward Impropropriators: Robert Courtboppe after twenty Weeks Imprisonment was released, but John Colvil remained Prisoner about two Years and an Half.

About this Time also, Richard Kingsford, Henry Start, and Nicholas Homewood, were Prisoners at Maidstone for Tithes; and Thomas Tunbridge, Richard Russell, and John Church, in Dover Castle. Whither also John Philly and John Guinian, were committed for teaching School without License from the Bishop. They were afterward brought before the Justices, had the Oath of Allegiance tendered them, and for refusing to take it, were recommitted.

ANNO 1672. In this Year Richard Perry, James Gimmond, Joseph Wright, George Hammond, James Wicking, William Whitely, Robert Quashed, Nathanael Owen, Giles Brown, and William Maddock, Prisoners in the County Goal, were released by the King's Letters Patent, granting a general Amnesty to the Quakers then in Prison.

In October the same Year, Thomas Friend and Andrew Hill, having been prosecuted in the Exchequer for Tithes, at the Suit of Herbert Richards, Priest of Allington, the said Andrew Hill was committed Prisoner to Canterbury Goal. This Herbert Richards, while Andrew Hill lay in Prison at his Suit, went into his Fields, demanding 3*l*. for Charges of casting him into Goal, and took away about one sixth Part of his Wheat, and what Quantity of other Corn he pleased, saying, If he did not take from the Quakers they would get the biggest Farms in the Parish, but he would do his Endeavour to keep them under. In like Manner he went into the Ground of Thomas Friend, and took thence what he pleased, for 40*s*. Charge, which he said he was put to in proceeding at Law against him. The same Priest also took from Thomas Pickle, a poor Man, who held some Common Land which had not before paid any Tithe, near Half his Corn. He also entred the Barn of John Essex, another Occupier of Common Land, and took away his Corn. All these Proceedings of his were void either of Law or Reason; but the Sufferers bore all with Christian Patience, not avenging themselves, but committing their Cause to him that judgeth righteously.

ANNO 1673. In the Month called May this Year, John Court, of Stone in the Isle of Oxley, who had been sued for a Demand of 40*s*. for Tithes, by Richard Skipton Impropropriator, had taken from him, by an Execution, four Bullocks and eight Sheep worth 10*l*.

In the same Year Susanna Friend, of Woodchurch, had her Corn worth 12*s*. taken by Stephen Munn Priest.

ANNO 1675. On the 29th of the Month called August this Year, Hockham and Kilshaw, Informers, came with Thomas Lambert, a Justice of the Peace, to a Meeting at Nathanael Owen's House in Seven-Oaks: The Informers, by the Justice's Order, pulled down John Abraham then preaching, and took him away with some others to an Inn, and soon after dismissed them. But the said Justice Lambert, in Conjunction with Francis Farnaby another Justice, ordered the Constable to seize John Abraham's Horse, with two others belonging to Samuel Green a poor Man, which Horses worth about 12*l*. were ordered to be sold. They also fined Nathanael Owen 20*l*. for his House, and 7*l*. for the pretended Poverty of John Abraham, though he had told them where he dwelt, and that he had an Estate of his own at Manchester. For those Fines the

K E N T.
1670.

Imprison-
ments.

Release of
Prisoners.

Exchequer
Process.

Distresses.

Proceedings of
Justice Lam-
bert and two
Informers.

KENT.
1675.

Imprisonments
and Distresses.

Imprisonment.

Remark.
Death of
N. Hom-
wood.
Distress for
Tithes.

Death of
T. Friend in
Prison.

Cruel Oppres-
sion.

Great Suffer-
ing of N.
Owen.

Imprisonments.

Distresses and
Imprisonments
for divers
Causes.

the said *Nathanael Owen* suffered Distress of Linen and Woolen Cloth and other Goods out of his House and Warehouse, to the Value of 77*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*

In this Year also, *John Denn*, *George White*, *Thomas Watson*, and *John Woodland*, were imprisoned for Tithes. And in the same Year for refusing to bear Arms, *John Baker*, *John Harvy*, *Thomas Elgar*, *George Girdler*, *Richard Russel*, *Abel Burroughs*, *John Mainard*, and *Luke Howard*, for Fines amounting to 9*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* had their Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 46*l.* Also *Thomas Clarenbole* and *Richard Perry* were imprisoned on Writs de Excommunicato capiendo for refusing to pay to the Repairs of their Parish-Church, so called.

ANNO 1676. *Joseph Ongley* was committed to Prison for Tithes, at the Suit of *William Jordan* Priest. Also *Jeremy Warner* was imprisoned for refusing to pay Tithes, at the Suit of *Richard Austin* Impropiator. His Case was somewhat peculiar, he being sued for the Tithe of a Crop of Corn, the Whole of which was less than the Seed from which it sprang. The Oppression of Tithes is great when it sweeps away, as it very often does, the Farmer's whole Profit: But that Oppression is aggravated when added to the Loss sustained without it. On the 19th of September this Year *Nicholas Homwood* died in *Maidstone* Goal, after eleven Years Imprisonment for Tithes.

ANNO 1678. In this Year *Henry Tiddeman* had his Corn taken away for Tithes to the Value of 20*l.* Also *Abel Burrows*, for a Claim of 16*s.* for Tithes, suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 1*l.* 15*s.*

Thomas Friend of *Allington*, for refusing to pay Tithes, was imprisoned, at the Suit of one *Slatton*, Priest of *Steventon*, in the Common Goal in *Dunstan's* near *Canterbury*, on the 14th of October this Year, and died there on the 5th of December following. He was cruelly used by the Goaler and his Wife, who put him among Felons and Murderers, would not let him have any Fire, and sometimes refused his Friends Access to him. The Day on which he died the Goaler's Wife would not let him have Fire to warm Something to be given him, though she was told how exceeding weak he was.

Nathanael Owen of *Seven-Oaks*, having been subpoena'd into *Chancery* for Tithes by the Priest of that Parish, who soon after died, his Widow in *Easter-Term* this Year renewed the Prosecution, and *Nathanael* for not answering on Oath was committed to the *Fleet* Prison in *London*. In *Michaelmas-Term* a Sequestration was issued for 83*l.* 3*s.* though the original Demand for Tithes and Offerings was but 16*l.* for which he had taken from him in Cloth and other Goods to the Value of 140*l.*

About this Time *Edward Warry*, *Daniel Lopdall*, *Valentine Bowles*, *George Loveday*, and *Robert Stead*, for Fines imposed on them for refusing to bear Arms, amounting to 6*l.* 5*s.* suffered by Distress of Goods to the Value of 10*l.* 6*s.* Also *Henry Rogers*, for 10*s.* Fine, had his Goods taken away to the Amount of 2*l.* 5*s.*

In this Year also, *Abel Burrows*, *John Gregson*, *Henry Roberts*, and *James Wicking*, were imprisoned for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance.

ANNO 1680. In an Account of the Sufferings of the People called *Quakers*, printed this Year, and presented to the King, Lords, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, we find Mention made of *Joseph Stonehouse*, *John Day*, *Mark Fielder*, *John Purdy*, and *Rebecca Elkington*, who all died in Prison for their Testimony to the Truth, since the Year 1661, in this County.

ANNO 1681. In this Year *Samuel Fox*, for praying in a religious Meeting at *Maidstone*, had his Goods taken away to the Value of 30*l.* And *John Gregson*, *Benjamin Chambers*, *Henry Roberts*, and *Henry Green*, for being present at that and other Meetings, suffered Distress of Goods to the Amount of 32*l.* *Thomas Day* of *Gravesend*, convicted at *Quarter Sessions* for a Month's Absence from his Parish-Church, so called, was committed to Prison. Also *Henry Rogers*, *Thomas Everden* the Younger, *Isaac Crawley*, *Richard Knell*, and *Richard Philcutt*, having been taken at a Meeting at *Canterbury*, were carried before the Mayor, who tendered them the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing

refusing it committed them to Prison, where they lay nine Weeks. In this Year also, *Mark Fiddeman, William Marsh, Richard Elgar, and Thomas Elgar*, fined 40s. each for refusing to bear Arms, had their Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 15l. 13s. 6d. In the same Year *John Rogers*, of Plumsted near Woolwich, was imprisoned for Tithes at the Suit of *Richard Saunders* Vicar.

KENT.
1682.

ANNO 1682. *Andrew Hill*, of Stelling, had one Fourth of all the Barley growing in his Fields that Year taken away by *Thomas Hardress* Priest, and his Assistants, under Pretence of Tithe. On the 16th of the Month called July, the *Bosholder* came to the Meeting at Canterbury, put out those that were met, and shut up the Door. Soon after came Captain *Roberts* and two Constables, and carried several of them before the Recorder, who committed *John Sims* and *William Upton* to Prison, because they refused to find Sureties for their good Behaviour till the next Sessions.

Persecution
for several
Causes.

At MAIDSTONE, *John Gregson, Henry Green, and Henry Roberts*, for their religious assembling together, suffered Distresses to the Value of 21l. 19s.

On the 11th of the Month called February, *Henry Rogers, Thomas Everden, John Sims, Robert Pope, William Upton, Richard Bullock, and Henry Methurst*, taken at a Meeting in Canterbury, were by the Mayor committed to Prison, where they continued above three Months.

In this Year *John Trilton, John Woodland, Joseph Templeman, Thomas Breets, John Colvill, John Asford, and George Courthope*, for Fines for Absence from the National Worship, had their Goods taken away by Distress to the Value of 5l. 12s.

ANNO 1683. On the 25th of the Month called April, *John Gregory*, having been fined 10l. for being at a Meeting in Maidstone, and for *Joane Vokins*'s preaching there, had all his Household Goods taken away, so that he had neither Bed left to lie on, nor Chair to sit on.

Hard Case of
J. Gregory.

Bartholomew Boykin, of Wingham, was committed to Prison upon two Indictments against him at Sessions, one for Absence from Church, and the other for a Conventicle in his House: Also *William Mott*, for refusing to traverse an Indictment laid against him for Absence from the National Worship, was sent to Prison: As were also *Michael Michaelmas* and *Edward Bothen*, whom the Recorder of Canterbury caused to be imprisoned on the Statute for 20l. per Month.

Imprison-
ments.

On the 10th of the Month called July, *John Jenner*, of Milton near Gravesend, Inn-keeper, was sent for by *Arthur White* Mayor, a Man of the same Occupation, and *John Heath* Deputy-Steward, who tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing to Swear, committed him to Prison: And at the same Time took from him his License to keep a Publick-house. At the Assizes soon after, the Oath was again tendred him in Court by Judge *Atkins*, and for refusing it, Sentence of *Premunire* was past upon him.

Commitment
of J. Jenner.

Robert Steed, of Ashford, was sent to Prison by Order of the Quarter Sessions, on an Indictment for Absence from the National Worship.

Premunired.
R. Steed im-
prisoned.

At DOVER, on the 9th of the Month called March, the Constables and Informers came to the Meeting, and sent those whom they found there to Prison: They seized the Meeting-house for the King, and put a Lock on the Door: They also took, by the Conventicle Act, from *Luke Howard, Edward Caxere, Edward Warry, John Broomstone, and James Ginnion*, Goods worth 5l. 12s. 3d. In this Year also the following Distresses were made, either for attending religious Meetings, or being absent from the National Worship, viz.

Dover Meet-
ing-house
seized.

	l.	s.	d.
Taken from <i>John Pilcher</i> of Wey, Horses, Cows, and Sheep, worth	40	0	0
<i>Richard Ower</i> , Horses worth	9	0	0
<i>Philip Settatree</i> , six Sheep, three Cows, a Steer, &c. worth	12	3	6
<i>Jeremy Warner</i> of Frittenden, Goods worth	3	4	6

Distresses.

K E N T.
1683.

	Brought over	l.	s.	d.
Taken from <i>John Whiting</i> , a Cow, an Hog, Household Goods, and other Things, to the Value of	3	64	8	0
<i>Augustine Hobdy</i> of <i>Waltham</i> , all his Goods within Doors and without, redeemed for	3	14	10	0
<i>Samuel Fox</i> and his Son <i>John Moore</i> , Goods worth	3	32	1	10
<i>Richard Kingsford</i> , seven Horses, a Waggon, and all his Goods, to the Value of	3	29	9	0
<i>Nicholas Wright</i> of <i>Winslow</i> , Goods worth	3	152	0	0
<i>Thomas Breets</i> of <i>Bunnington</i> , eleven Head of Cattle, a Calf, and a Mare, worth	3	50	0	0
<i>Walter Higgins</i> , a poor Labourer, a Cow worth	3	40	10	0
		4	0	0
		386	17	10

Andrew Hill was imprisoned six Months, by Order of Sessions, for not coming to Church.

Commitments
for refusing to
Swear.

On the 23d of the Month called *March*, *Thomas Bridge*, *Luke Howard*, *Edward Caxere*, *Edmund Beane*, *James Ginnion*, *Edward Warry sen.* *Edward Warry jun.* *John Broomstone*, and *William Robinson*, were taken at a Meeting in *Dover*, and carried before the Commissioners at the Town-hall, who tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing to Swear sent them to Prison.

Taken this Year by Distress for Absence from the publick Worship,

Distresses.

From <i>James Hunt</i> , <i>Andrew Hill</i> , <i>John Tritton</i> , <i>Nicholas Lad</i> , and <i>Robert Steed</i> , Cattle and Goods to the Value of	3	14	9	0
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Insolence of
an Informer.Imprisonments
and Distresses.

ANNO 1684. On the 1st of the Month called *June*, a Meeting was held in the Street at *Folkstone*, near the Meeting-house, which was long lockt up by Order of the Mayor and Jurates. One *James Foster*, an insolent Informer, complained to, and even commanded the Mayor to go to the Meeting-place and take the Names of those that were met. After which he committed seven of them to Prison, where they continued four Months, namely, *Thomas Tunbridge*, *Richard Kimber*, *Stephen Goden*, *Thomas Elgar*, *John Middlemas*, *Samuel Hambrook*, and *Josias Swaffer*. The Mayor also granted a Warrant for Distress on others, by which, Goods were taken from them to the Value of 9 l. 2 s. 2 d. On the 29th of *December*, upon Information of two Meetings at *Folkstone*, the Mayor committed to Prison *Stephen Goden*, *Richard Spaine*, *Richard Kimber*, *John Baker*, *William Hall*, *Thomas Tunbridge*, *John Middlemas*, *William Marsh*, *John Harvey*, and *Laurence Squire*, several of whom, having suffered four Months Imprisonment, returned to their Christian Duty of assembling for the Worship of God, from which nothing could deter them. The Mayor also again issued his Warrant for Distress, by which were taken

From <i>William Marsh</i> , <i>Thomas Tunbridge</i> , <i>Thomas Hall</i> , <i>Richard Spain</i> , <i>Josias Swaffer</i> , <i>Widow Lushington</i> , <i>Richard Kimber</i> , and <i>John Middlemas</i> , Goods to the Value of	3	11	5	0
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Unjust Sei-
zure.

In this Year the Constable of *Cranbrook*, and others, came to the House of *John Asford* a Shop-keeper there, demanding Entrance to levy 10 l. 5 s. for a Meeting at that Town, and for the Poverty of *John Fox*, who preached there. *John Asford* told them, that his Goods were already seized by the Sheriff for the King's Use, and that the Sheriff had sold them to *Nicholas Bishop*, producing both the Inventory and Bill of Sale. Nevertheless the Informers and Officers forced into the House, and carried away forty four Pieces and Remnants of Cloth,

to the *Blacks Inn*, where it was measured and found to contain four Hundred and nine Ells, worth

K E N T.
1684.

Thomas Lilly, of the same Place, had his Door broke open, when from Home, and a Bed and Bolster, with its Furniture, taken away, to the Value of

Thomas Nash of *Cranbrook*, Clothier, had Wool and Cloth taken away worth

30	0	0
6	0	0
4	0	0
40	0	0

Thomas Hedgcock, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, was committed to Prison by the Mayor of *Folkestone*: And for the same Cause *Valentine Bowles*, *Daniel Lopdall*, *John Knot*, *Henry Meders*, and *Thomas Pollard*, were imprisoned by the Mayor of *Sandwich*: At the Sessions, near five Months after, they were fined 4*l.* 10*s.* each, and discharged; but Distresses were made for their Fines, for which was taken

From *Daniel Lopdall*, an Hogshead of Wine worth
Valentine Bowles, Butter and Soap worth
Henry Meders, Stuff worth
Thomas Pollard, five Firkins of Butter worth

5	0	0
5	5	0
5	9	0
6	0	0
21	14	0

Distresses for
Fines.

John Moore of *Rochester*, for not sending a Soldier to the Muster, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 5*l.* Also *Robert Claringbout* was distrained on for the same Cause.

Trained-
Bands.

In this Year also *Abel Burrows*, for Non-payment of Tithes, was committed to *Dover Castle*: And *James Stone* and *William Rogers* were imprisoned at *Maidstone* for the same Cause: For which also *William Gibbins* and *Alice Smith* were then Prisoners at *Canterbury*, where the Former of them had been above ten Years, and the Latter about six Years.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

Long Imprison-
ments.

ANNO 1685. *Nicholas Lad*, prosecuted for Tithes at the Suit of *Nicholas Marsh* Improprator, for 12*l.* original Demand, had taken from him by a Sequestration on his Estate, Goods worth 58*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*

Severe Sei-
zure.

In the Month called *July* this Year, the Meetings at *Cranbrook* were several Times disturbed, and those who were met turned out by *Henry Courthope* Lieutenant of the Trained Bands, and his Soldiers, who threatened to prosecute the Officers of the Town for their Neglect of Duty. About this Time also were taken by Distresses, on the Conventicle Act,

Meetings mo-
lest at Cran-
brook.

From *Edward Warry*, *John Broomstone*, and *George White*, Cattle and other Goods to the Value of

6	5	10
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Distresses.

Taken also this Year for Absence from the National Worship,

From *George Courthope* and *John Woodland*, to the Value of

5	5	0
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ANNO 1690. In this Year, by Distresses made for Absence from the National Way of Worship, Goods were taken

From *John Sims*, *Luke Howard*, *John Tritton*, *John Woodland*, *George White*, and *Thomas Kingham*, to the Value of

54	0	4
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In the same Year *James Stone*, having been prosecuted for Tithes of about 15*l.* Value, at the Suit of *Giles Hinton*, Rector of *Biddenden*, had taken from him by a Sequestration, at several Times, six Cows, six Oxen, and four Bullocks, worth 47*l.*

In

KENT.
1690.

Tithes in kind.

In this and the preceding Year, Tithes were taken in kind out of the Field,

From James Stone, John Woodland, and Abraham Bur-	12	5	0
rows, to the Value of			
Robert Wright, George White, Michael Pay,	16	9	6
Philip Settatee, Henry Chapman, and Nicho-			
las Lad jun.			
Daniel Sharp, John Tritton, and Thomas Settatee	4	5	0
	32	19	6

We shall close our Account of this County with the following Passage, to which no Date is affixed, viz.

William Roberts, Thomas Kingham, and Robert Poolin, all poor Men of Ashford, were fined for opening their Shops on a Fast-day, and at two several Sessions committed to Prison, upon the Presentment of Henry Lounds a Bayliff. And shall next proceed to Lancashire.

C H A P. XXII.

LANCASHIRE.
1652.Many Abuses
of G. Fox.His Trial at
Lancaster,
Sessions.Many con-
vinced at his
Trial.

LANCASHIRE.

ANNO 1652.

GEORGE FOX, preaching in this County, met with a Multitude of Abuses from the ignorant People, animated by designing Priests, whose Interest his Doctrine opposed. He endured the Insults, Beatings, Stonings, Kickings, Railings, Revilings, and Contradictions of Sinners with Christian Patience and Magnanimity. The Tendency of his Preaching was to direct Men to the Guidance of the Light of Christ in themselves, the universal Teacher, which would prevent their being misled by those who then assumed the Office of Ministers, and whom he boldly testified against as Hirelings and Deceivers. The Priests, alarmed at so daring an Attempt against their Power and Profit, cried out with one Voice, like the Jews against Paul, Away with such a Fellow from the Earth, for it is not fit that he should live; and, as if they had imitated the Persecutors of the Protomartyr Stephen, when they were not able to resist the Wisdom and the Spirit by which he spake, then they suborned Men which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous Words. To answer this Charge, George Fox appeared at Lancaster Sessions, and forty Priests all combined against him. The Witnesses were a young Priest, and two Priests Sons; these agreed in the general Accusation of Blasphemy, but in their Evidence of the special Matter, and of the Words spoken, they were confused, and so palpably contradicted by the Testimony of many serious and substantial Persons who were present at the Meeting, where they pretended the Blasphemy was uttered, that his Opposers were utterly foiled and went away ashamed: While George Fox, having Liberty given him by the Justices, declared the Testimony of Truth with such Power and Efficacy, that many present were convinced, among whom were Justice Benson and the Mayor of Lancaster; also Thomas Briggs, who became a faithful and zealous Minister and Preacher of the Doctrine of Truth all his Life after.

The Priests, thus disappointed, were very uneasy, and used their Endeavours to have persuaded some of the Justices, and other Gentlemen of the County, to sign the following Petition, viz.

" To

To the Right Hon^{ble} the Council of State.
The humble Petition of several Gentlemen, Justices of the Peace,
Ministers of the Gospel, and People, within the County of Lancaster,
whose Names are subscribed,

LANCA-
SHIRE,
1652.

SHEWETH,
THAT George Fox and James Naylor are Persons disaffected to Religion,
 and the wholesome Laws of this Nation, and that, since their coming
 into this Country, they have broached Opinions tending to the Destruction of
 the Relation of Subjects to their Magistrates, Wives to their Husbands,
 Children to their Parents, Servants to their Masters, Congregations to their
 Ministers, and of a People to their God, and have drawn much People after
 them; many whereof (Men, Women, and little Children) at their Meetings
 are strangely wrought upon in their Bodies, and brought to fall, foam at the
 Mouth, roar, and swell in their Bellies: And that some of them affirmed
 themselves to be equal with God, contrary to the late Act, as hath been
 attested at a large Quarter Sessions holden at Lancaster in October last past,
 and since that Time acknowledged before many Witnesses; besides many
 other dangerous Opinions, and damnable Heresies, as appears by a Schedule
 hereunto annexed, with the Names of the Witnesses subscribed.
 May it therefore please your Honours, upon the Consideration of the
 Premises, to provide, (as your Wisdom shall think fit) that some speedy
 Course may be taken for the speedy suppressing of these Evils.

A Petition
from the
Priests against
G. Fox and
J. Naylor.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray, as in Duty bound."

To this Petition an Answer was written by George Fox, intituled, *Saul's*
Errand to Damascus, to which is a Preface, wherein the Case of this People at
 that Time seems impartially related, viz.

An Answer
thereto.

To the Christian Reader

THESSE are to let thee know, that the only wise God at this Time
 hath so by his Providence ordered it, in the North Parts of Lanca-
 shire, that many precious Christians (and so for many Years accounted before
 the Nick-Name *Quaker* was heard of) have for some Time past forbore to
 congregate in parochial Assemblies, wherein they profess themselves to
 have gained little of the Knowledge of *Jesus Christ*: And it is, and hath
 been upon their Hearts to meet often (and on the Lord's Day continually) at
 convenient Places, to seek the Lord their Redeemer, and to worship him in
 Spirit and in Truth, and to speak of such Things tending to mutual Edifi-
 cation, as the good Spirit of the Lord shall teach them, demeaning them-
 selves without any Offence given to any that truly fear the Lord.
 But true it is, that some Men, and Interests, of those Parts, do take great
 Offence at them, and their Christian peaceable Exercises: some, because they
 have witnessed against Pride and luxuriant Fulness, have therefore come
 armed with Swords and Pistols (Men that never drew a Sword for the Interest
 of the Commonwealth of *England*, perhaps against it) into their Assemblies
 in Time of their Christian Performances, and have taken him whom the
 Lord at that Instant had moved to speak to the Rest, and others of their
 Assembly, after they had haled and beaten them, and carried them bound
 Hand and Feet into the open Fields, in the Cold of the Night, and there
 left them to the Hazard of their Lives, had not the Lord of Life owned
 them, which he did in much Mercy. Others have had their Houses broken
 in the Night, and entred by Men armed as aforesaid, and disguised, when

The Preface to
that Answer.

The Person of
their Lord.

the Person of
their Lord.

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“ they have been peaceably waiting upon God with their own and Neighbours Families; and yet these humble persecuted Christians would not (even in these Cases of gross and intolerable Affronts, acted equally against the Peace of the Nation as against them) complain, but expressed how much, in Measure, of their Master's Patience was given them, in breathing out their Master's gentle Words, *Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.* Who have at any Time born such an unheard of Persecution with so mild Spirits? Only they in whom persecuted Christ dwells: These poor Creatures know how their Master sared, and rejoice to suffer with him, by whom alone they hope to be glorified, and are as well content to suffer, as to reign with Christ; and yet a Necessity lies upon us (if we will be the Lord's Disciples) to take up our Cross daily, and follow him: How is it then, that the Crown of Pride is so long upon the Head of Persecutors? How is it that such Men should dare to divide the People of England, to trouble the Council of State, (in the Throng of Business concerning the Management and Improvement of the mighty Series of glorious Providence made out to this Infant Commonwealth) with such abominable Misrepresentations of honest, pious, peaceable Men, who desire nothing more than to glorify their God in their Generation, and are and have been more faithful to the Interest of God's People in the Nation, than any of the Contrivers of the Petition, as will easily be made appear, if we may take for Evidence what they themselves have often said of the Parliament and Army, and their Friends and Servants, publicly and privately; and it is well known their judgments are the same, but that the Publication thereof will not safely consist with the Enjoyment of their large Vicarages, Parsonages, and Augmentations, whereby they are lifted up above their Brethren, and exalt themselves above all that are called God's People in these Parts.

“ However, Reader, we need not fear, we hope the Lord will never suffer that Monster Persecution again to enter within the Gates of England's Whitehall. They that sit in Council there know well enough, who it was that so often assembled to consult how they might take Jesus by Subtlety and kill him. They were Men of no lower Condition than Chief Priests, Scribes, and Elders of the People, and if ever these Petitioners should but appear before them to whom they have directed their Petition, my Heart deceives me if they be not accounted such.

“ Reader, I would not Preface thee into a good Opinion of these suffering Objects of such Men's Wrath; but read their Paper here put into thy Hand, by them written upon the Occasion of this Petition, and several Shakes and Temptations laid before them on purpose to entrap them; And if by them thou canst find Cause to pity these oppressed little Ones, have them in thy Remembrance when thou goest to the Throne of Grace, where my Prayers shall meet thine for them.

The Fervour of
their Zeal

The fervent Zeal and earnest Concern many called Quakers in those Times were under to declare the Truth they had received, constrained them to seek Opportunities for that Purpose, either at the Close of the publick Worship, before the People were dispersed, or at their coming out from thence: This greatly offended the established Teachers, who excited the worst of their Hearers, on whom they have often the greatest Influence, to receive those Messengers with all Manner of despiteful Usage, as by the following Instances appears.

Imprisonments
and grievous
Abuses of
many of this
People for
their publick
Testimony.

ANNIS 1654, 1655, 1656. John Lawson of Lancaster, for preaching to the People in the Steeple-house Yard at Malpas was let in the Stocks four Hours, and afterward sent to the County Goal, where he was imprisoned twenty three Weeks. At another Time for exhorting the People in the Steeple-house at Lancaster, he was sent to Prison till the Assizes, where he was fined 20 l. and for Non-payment of that Fine was continued in Prison above a Year after.

Edward

Edward Hulley, attempting to exhort the People assembled in the publick Worship-house at Pateley-Briggs, was dragged out of the Place, and so cruelly kickt on the Head and Belly, that it was thought they had killed him. Henry Wood, for asking a Priest, Whether he did witness the Truth of what he taught, was beaten backward, by the rude People, one of whom struck him such a Blow on the Face, that the Blood came out at his Eye: After which he was sent to Prison and lay there thirteen Weeks.

Anne Kennebie, for speaking a few Words to the People in their publick Assembly at Liverpool, was sent to Prison: The Priest of that Place went to the Prison to see and deride her, while others with him beat and abused her.

William Simson and Leonard Addish, speaking to the Priest at Blackburne after Sermon, the People fell upon them, pluckt them by the Hair, and beat them cruelly.

For the like Causes, Jeremiah Tomlinson, George Cowson, John Moone, Edward Adonis, Richard Gubham, Thomas Hill, Benjamin Boul, Agnes Mackreath, Simon Whitehead, Peter Leatherhead, James Fletcher, William Gibson, William Dewsberry, Thomas Hutton, Thomas Curwan, Waller Myers, Mary Clayton, Anne Clayton, Mary Howgill, Jane Ashburner, John Driver, James Simonson, Thomas Rawlinson, Richard Roper, Richard Waller, Thomas Salbouse, and Leonard Fell, were at several Times committed to Prison in this County; for as they esteemed it their Christian Duty to exhort both Priests and People to Repentance and Amendment of Life, they discharged that Duty through many Afflictions, knowing that as the Sufferings of Christ abounded in them, so their Consolation also abounded in him. 2 Cor. 1.

The Superstition of those Times made it penal to travel but a few Miles on the First-day of the Week, though to a religious Meeting, for which Cause John Tompson, William Tompson, Eleanour Parkinson, John Lawson, and Thomas Bond, had their Horses seized and taken from them to the Value of 20*l*. Also Peter Lawford, for permitting a Meeting at his House, was committed to Prison. Richard Weaver, riding to a Meeting, had his Mare taken from him, and for complaining of the Injury done him to the Mayor of Preston, was by him sent to Prison.

Richard Hubbertorn and others were taken out of a Meeting, bound Hand and Foot, and so carried and laid in the open Fields in a cold Winter Night, to the Hazard of their Lives. Ralph Barnes and John Barnes were taken from a Meeting at Warrington Heath, and committed to Lancaster Goal.

The distinguishing Plainness of this People in Habit and Deportment exposed them to many Abuses from the Malice of the Priests, the Ignorance of the People, and the Pride of some in Authority, of which the following Instances are observable:

James Smithson, going to a Meeting, met his Landlord, formerly High-Sheriff, who, because James did not pay him the usual Homage of the Hat, rode furiously to him, struck him till his Staff broke, and afterward beat him with his Hands. At another Time as they occasionally met, he asked James, Whether no Honour was due to a Landlord? He replied, I do honour thee with my Rent when due. Upon which he pluckt off his Hat, and struck him about the Head and Face till the Blood ran.

Edward Hulley, and others, passing from a Meeting, the usual Footway through the Grounds of Henry Mugtroyde, he stopt them, and when they alledged, that It was an Highway, he answered, 'Tis so to others, but shall not be so to you, and forced them to go back. He also knockt down the said Edward, and gave him many Blows over his Head and Face.

Anne Beck was struck to the Ground by the said Henry Mugtroyde, and his Son; and at another Time, as she passed the Streets exhorting the People, she was laid violent Hands on, put into the Stocks, set in the Dirt, and there left.

As several of this People were returning from the interring of a Child of John Sagar of Marsden, they were assailed and beaten with a Hedge-stake by one Edward Kipper, who in his Fury threatned to kill the first

LANCA-
SHIRE.

1654,

1655, and
1656.



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Many other
Abuses thro'
Malice and
Ignorance.

of

LANCA
SHIRE.1654,
1655, and
1656.Rise of these
Abuses.Murder of
R. Barnes.Bruising of
J. Barnes.Distresses for
Tithes.

of them be met. In like Manner John Liddell, passing on the Highway, was knockt down by a barbarous Ruffian who met him. Also Oliver Atherton was used with like Barbarity as he was quietly travelling on the Road. At a Meeting near Zancby, where Elizabeth Leavens was preaching, a rude Company, headed by an Elder of their Church, pulled her down and abused her much. As she and others were going Home the People fell upon them, and grievously beat William Birchall, James Challoner, Laurence Johnson, and James Lassal.

These Injuries and Abuses were the Effect of a false and ignorant Zeal for Religion, which when it enters into Men of ill Morals, instead of mending, makes them worse, and increases their Prejudice and Malice against those who sincerely worship God in Spirit and in Truth. Another Instance of the lamentable Consequences of such a blind Zeal next follows, viz.

ANNO 1658. Rebecca Barnes, Elizabeth Holme, and others, coming from a Meeting near Ormskirk, met with David Ellison a Priest, to whom Rebecca spake some displeasing Words. The Persons, who accompanied the Priest, fell to abusing her, while he animated them, crying out, Down with her, down with her, which his cruel Comrades effectually performed, for they beat, bruised, and struck her on the Breast so cruelly, that within seven Days after she died. The Men and Women, who were in her Company, endeavouring what they could to keep the Blows off her, were sorely bruised with Hedgestakes, and had much of their Blood shed, they making no Resistance, and one of them, John Barnes, was forced to keep his Bed, through Weakness, some Time after.

In the Month called August this Year, John Lawson, with about nineteen others, going to a Meeting, were apprehended by a Watch purposely appointed by the Mayor of Preston, and detained Prisoners twenty four Hours without any Cause assigned.

ANNO 1659. In this and the preceding Years were taken by Distresses for Tithes,

From Richard Ashburner, for 12 s. 4 d. demanded, Goods worth 6 17 0
Oliver Atherton 1 0 0

Samuel Barrow 2 12 0

Thomas Barrow 1 0 0

Richard Britton 1 0 0

James Chambers 1 0 0

Edmund Clayton 1 0 0

Thomas Curwen 1 0 0

Thomas Earle 1 0 0

Thomas Fell 1 4 0

William Greenbank 1 0 0

Richard Hargreaves 1 0 0

Edward Harrison 1 0 0

Laurence Hay 1 0 0

Thomas Leaper 1 0 0

Roger Leatherbarrow 1 0 0

Richard Miers 1 0 0

John Minshall 1 0 0

Edward Moon 1 0 0

Thomas Moon 1 0 0

George Pye 1 0 0

Thomas Pierson 1 0 0

John Pierson 1 0 0

William Simpson 1 0 0

John Townsend 1 0 0

Robert Walker 1 0 0

Alice Woolhead 1 0 0

For 41 18 6 demanded, Taken 172 15 10
Several

Several of the Persons last named also suffered Imprisonment for Tithes, namely, *Richard Ashburner, Richard Miers, Thomas Leaper, Oliver Atberton,* and *Thomas Curwen*; beside whom, *Robert Stout* for the same Cause suffered eighteen Months Confinement, *Thomas Atkinson* five Months, and *Richard Cubham* a considerable Time. *Robert Widders* was sued to an Outlawry for Tithes, and was imprisoned in *Lancaster Castle* two Years and an Half. *Richard Apener*, for the same Christian Testimony against the Payment of Tithes, also suffered Imprisonment till Death.

LANCA-
SHIRE.
1659.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.
R. Apener
died Prisoner.

From *John Barrow, Thomas Atkinson, James Taylor, and Richard Fell*, Goods were taken by Distresses for Tithes to the Value of 27*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* *Thomas Hill* also endured the spoiling of his Goods for the same Cause.

For refusing to take an Oath on several Occasions, the following Persons were fined and suffered Distress, viz.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
<i>George Barrow, Thomas Cummin, John Hargreaves, Thomas Leaper, and John Minshall,</i> to the Value of	10	11	4	Fines and Distresses.
<i>Thomas Green, Richard Hargreaves, John Sagar,</i> <i>Robert Walker, George Stybe, and John Smith</i>	12	3	0	
<i>William Seaman, John Smith, Richard Weaver,</i> <i>Peter Sharlton, and John Townson</i>	12	15	0	
	35	9	4	

Taken also from several Persons for refusing Payments imposed for repairing the Steeple-houses, Wages of the Parish-Clerks, and the like Claims, for 1*l.* 6*s.* demanded, Goods worth 4*l.* 16*s.*

ANNO 1660. In the Month called *June* this Year, four Constables came with a Warrant to the House of *Margaret Fell* at *Swarthmore*, where they apprehended *George Fox*, and carried him before *Henry Porter*, Mayor of *Lancaster*, who examined him as follows, viz.

Apprehension
of G. Fox.

Mayor. *Why came you into the Country this troublesome Time?*

His Examination.

G. F. To visit my Brethren.

Mayor. *But you have great Meetings up and down.*

G. F. Though we have so, our Meetings are known throughout the Nation to be peaceable, and we are a peaceable People.

Mayor. *You see the Devil in People's Faces.*

G. F. If I see a Drunkard, a Swearer, or a peevish heady Man, I cannot say, I see the Spirit of God in him.

Mayor. *You cry against our Ministers.*

G. F. Whilst we were as *Saul* sitting under the Priests, and running up and down with their Packets of Letters, we were never called pestilent Fellows, nor Makers of Sects; but when we came to exercise our Consciences towards God and Man, we were called pestilent Fellows, as *Paul* was.

Mayor. *You can express your selves well enough: I won't dispute with you, but I will restrain you.*

G. F. By whose Order didst thou send a Warrant for me?

Mayor. *I have an Order, but will not reveal the King's Secrets: A Prisoner is not to see for what he is committed.*

G. F. That is not Reason; how then shall he make his Defence? I ought to have a Copy of it.

Mayor. *There was a Judge that fined one for letting a Prisoner have a Copy of his Mittimus. I have an old Clerk, though I am a young Justice.*

Then he called to the Clerk, *Is it not ready yet?* meaning the Mittimus.

Mayor. *You are a Disturber of the Nation.*

G. F. I have been a Blessing to the Nation in and through the Lord's Power and Truth, and the Spirit of God in all Consciences will answer it.

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LANCASTER-
SHIRE.
1660.

G. Fox sent
to Prison.

Habeas Cor-
pus.

Return.

Warrant for
his Discharge.

The Judge's
Order.

Mayor. *You are an Enemy to the King: You endeavour to raise a new War, and imbrue the Nation in Blood again.*

G. F. I have never learned the Postures of War, but am clear and innocent as a Child concerning these Things, and therefore am bold

Then the *Mittimus* was brought, the Goaler called, and commanded to put him into the Dark-house, and let none come at him.

Bail was offered for his Appearance, but refused: After a considerable Time of close Confinement an *Habeas Corpus* was procured to remove him to London, and the Sheriff, well satisfied of his Innocence, permitted him to go up with some of his Friends, without any Guard, on his Promise to appear before the Judges at *Westminster*, on a certain Day, if the Lord permitted. He appeared accordingly, accompanied with *Robert Widders*, *Richard Hubbertborn*, and Esquire *Marsh* of the King's Bedchamber. The Charge against him was read in Court, but no Accuser appearing, Esquire *Marsh* signified to the Judges, that it was the King's Pleasure George Fox should be set at Liberty. Whereupon the Court ordered the Sheriff's Return of the *Habeas Corpus* to be laid before the King, being as follows, viz.

" BY Virtue of his Majesty's Writ to me directed, and hereunto annexed, I certify, that before the Receipt of the said Writ, George Fox, in the said Writ mentioned, was committed to his Majesty's Goal at the Castle of Lancaster, in my Custody, by a Warrant from Henry Porter Esq; one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace within the County Palatine aforesaid, bearing Date the 5th Day of June now last past, for that he the said George Fox was generally suspected to be a common Disturber of the Peace of this Nation, an Enemy to our sovereign Lord the King, and a chief Upholder of the Quakers Sect, and that he, together with others of his fanatick Opinion, have of late endeavoured to make Insurrections in these Parts of the Country, and to embroil the whole Kingdom in Blood: And this is the Cause of his Taking and Detaining. Nevertheless, the Body of the said George Fox I have ready before Francis Mallet Knight, one of his Majesty's Justices at signed to hold Pleas before his said Majesty, at his Chamber in Serjeant's Inn in Fleet-street, to do and receive those Things which his Majesty's said Justice shall determine concerning him in this Behalf, as by the aforesaid Writ is required.

" GEORGE CHETHAM Esq; Sheriff."

Upon Consideration of the whole Matter and Circumstances, the King being satisfied of George's Innocence, gave Direction for his Release, which was done by the following Warrant from a Secretary of State, viz.

" IT is his Majesty's Pleasure that you give Order for the releasing and setting at full Liberty the Person of George Fox, late a Prisoner in Lancaster Goal, and commanded hither by *Habeas Corpus*. And this Signification of his Majesty's Pleasure shall be your sufficient Warrant. Dated at Whitehall the 24th of October 1660.

" To Sir Francis Mallet Knight, one of the Justices of the King's Bench. " EDWARD NICHOLAS."

Upon which Judge Mallett issued the following Order, viz.

" BY Virtue of a Warrant which this Morning I have received from the Right Honourable Sir Edward Nicholas Knight, one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries, for the releasing and setting at Liberty George Fox, late a Prisoner in Lancaster Goal, and from thence brought hither by *Habeas Corpus*, and committed unto your Custody. I do hereby require you accordingly

"accordingly to release and set the said Prisoner George Fox at Liberty; for
"which this shall be your Warrant and Discharge. Given under my Hand
"the 25th Day of October, in the Year of our Lord God 1660.

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1660.

To Sir John Lenthall Kn.
Marshal of the King's Bench,
or his Deputy.

"FRANCIS MALLETT."

Pursuant to this Order George Fox was set at Liberty after twenty Weeks Imprisonment: Some of his Friends would have persuaded George to have taken the Advantage of the Law against the Justice and others who had proceeded so illegally against him, and been the Authors of his unjust Confinement; but he, like a meek and patient Christian replied, *I shall leave them to the Lord: If the Lord forgive them, I shall not trouble my self about them.*

His peaceful
Temper of
Mind.

About the Month called January this Year, a general Prosecution of this People, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, was set on foot: On the 9th of that Month, Robert Alston and Thomas Bond were taken from their own Houses at Chipping by Soldiers, and without any Warrant or Mittimus carried to Prison at Lancaster. On the 13th a Constable with armed Soldiers took twenty six Persons from a Meeting at Tolland, kept them under a Guard till next Day, and then carried them unexamined to Lancaster Castle. On the 20th they took from the same Place all that were met, and carried them to a neighbouring Justice, who sent one Man, twelve Women, and a Boy to Prison: The Names of those who were apprehended at these two Meetings, with two others, were as follows, viz. John Backhouse, Richard Barrow, Thomas Barrow, Christopher Bisbrown, Christopher Bisbrown jun. John Bisbrown, John Bisbrown jun. John Beakbean, Thomas Camm, Thomas Chorley, Edward Cumming, Thomas Dowelbiwell, Robert Hadwen, William Hugginson, Robert Hubbersty, James Hutton, William Johnson, Thomas Leaper, Thomas Preston, William Slubb, William Weston, James Weathman, William Weathman, William Weathman jun. Robert Widders, Thomas Widders, Alice Barrow, Anne Beakbean, Mary Atbwenwheat, Mary Bisbrown, Anne Cumming, Martha Croft, Elizabeth Fell, Frances Flemming, Margaret Hadwin, Jane Hubberthorn, Margaret Lucas, Frances Preston, Anne Stout, Anne Weathman, and Jane Widder. To these add Robert Drinkwell, who was taken shortly after by Soldiers; also the following sixteen, taken out of their own Houses at Wray and Places adjacent, viz. Robert Bateson, John Crozier, Richard Fletcher, Christopher Glover, Robert Glover, William Edmonson, William Lamb, John Myers, Christopher Nelson, John Priestly, Christopher Skirrah, Giles Skirrah, Thomas Skirrah, Thomas Skirrah jun. Marmaduke Tatham, and Thomas Wilson. Also on the 20th Thomas Crosby, Jeremiah Lion, Isaac Alston, Henry Foster, Henry Martland, John Bispham, John Wüherby, John Alston, Richard Johnson, Godfrey Atherton, Peter Westhead, George Pye, Peter Leadbeater, Roger Leatherbarrow, John Underwood, and John Smallshaw, were forcibly taken out of a religious Meeting at Bicarfeib by Soldiers (who said they had Orders from the Earl of Derby) and sent to the Sessions at Wigan, where the Justices tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and committed them to Lancaster Goal for refusing it. On the same Day, at Knowlsey, Peter Laithwaite, Henry Hulgreave, William Bootle, Richard Beesly, Thomas Tarbock, Robert Heyes, William Harrison, and Thomas Rose, being met together to worship God, were apprehended by a Constable, and by Warrant from a Justice of the Peace, before whom they had refused to take the Oaths, were sent to the same Goal. Also on the same Day, at Lancaster, a Party of Soldiers, some with Swords drawn and Pistols cockt, others with Muskets and lighted Matches, came to the Meeting and took away all the Men they found, and carried them to the Castle. On the 27th, the Meeting consisting of Women, only one Man, they took them also, and sent them to the same Prison with some others whom they had taken from their own Houses. The Names of the Men so committed were, John Lawson, Peter Cathery, Thomas Hinde, Robert Mayor, Matthew

Many Impri-
sonments for
not Swearing.

Jepson,

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1660.

Jepson, Matthew Baines, John Fowler, William Gunson, John Jenkinson, William Marshall, John Walker, Robert Willson, William Harrison, Timothy Taylor, Robert Thornton, Francis Shireson, Richard Hinde, George Cawson, Henry Crossfield, William Greenbank, Thomas Hodgson, Robert Proctor, William Masher, John Birlow, Christopher Barrow, Robert Taylor, Robert Bruce, William Baines, and Thomas Green. — And of the Women, Mary Bruce, Dorothy Baines, Ellen Hodgkinson, Anne Stubbs, Jennet Tenant, and Jane Dickenson.

On the same Day John Abraham, Isaac Mosse, Abraham Garfide, Jonathan Bradshaw, John Burges, Mary Ridgway, Mary Poole, Elizabeth Owen, and Elizabeth Fletcher, were taken out of their Meeting at Manchester, and by Order of one Justice detained till the next Day, when, upon refusing to Swear, they were committed to Prison.

On the 24th, at Swarthmore, forty three Persons were taken, some out of their Houses, others from the Market, and some from their Labour and Employments, by a Party of Horsemen, and without any Warrant, Mittimus, or Examination before a Magistrate, committed to Lancaster Castle, namely, Thomas Hutton, Tobias Wilson, John Chambers, Thomas Fell, Thomas Goad, Richard Fell, Richard Ashburner, Thomas Barwick, James Milner, Thomas Curwen, Richard Myers, Francis Pearson, William Simpson, Thomas Myers, Thomas Fell, Francis Pearson jun. Thomas Haverigg, Paul Pennington, Edward Cowper, Leonard Ashburner, James Chambers, John Goade, William Hawthornthwaite, William Dodgson, Thomas Wilson, William Strickland, George Fell, Jasper Sharp, Robert Pennington, John Kirkby, Robert Salthouse, William Salthouse, James Parke, Thomas Rawlinson, Daniel Thwaite, Nicholas Birkett, Thomas Benson, John Holme, William Towers, William Atkinson, Thomas Fisher, Edward Cowper, and Thomas Wilson jun.

On the 27th twenty Persons, viz. four of them for refusing the Oaths, and the Rest for not giving Sureties for their good Behaviour, were committed to the same Prison, namely, Ralph Barnes, Samuel Barnes, Thomas Barnes, John Barrow, Samuel Barrow, James Barton, Thomas Earle, Samuel Dunbabin, Richard Goose, Gilbert Houl, Richard Houlden, Henry Holbrook, John Minshall, Samuel Minshall, Savage Mason, John Mercer, John Johnson, John Seddon, Richard Tarbock, and Thomas Taylor.

On the same Day, at Downham, James Whip, Thomas Tatbam, Elizabeth Easton, Mary Tatbam, Elizabeth Lorrimer, Anne Driver, and Edward Hulley, at whose House they were met, were apprehended by a Constable, kept all Night, and next Day by a Justice of Peace committed to Prison for refusing the Oaths. The Constable also took by Distress from Edward Hulley an Heifer worth 2*l.* 12*s.* for pretended Charges of carrying them to Goal, he also extorted by Arrests and other vexatious Methods from the said Edward's Relations 3*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* on the same Pretence, although all the Prisoners did bear their own Expences.

On the 10th of the Month called February, Richard Madder, Edward Dawson, Nebemiah Poole, Arthur Walker, Hannah Taylor, Mary Mosse, and Ellen Alred, were taken out of a religious Meeting, and for refusing to Swear, committed to Lancaster Goal. And on the 17th of the same Month, at Haslenden, Abraham Hayworth, Henry Birtwistle, Richard Ratcliff, John Grime, Laurence Taylor, James Ratcliff, Henry Wood, John Cowper, Isabel Wood, Mary Roysterson, Alice Roysterson, Agnes Robinson, Katharine Doe, Isabel Ratcliff, Elizabeth Birtwistle, Margaret Birtwistle, Mary Hayworth, and Elizabeth Hayworth, being met together, were taken by a Constable, and kept with a Guard all Night: Among them was the Wife of Henry Wood, who coming to see her, was also detained, and committed to Prison with the Rest for refusing the Oaths.

On the same Day the following Persons were taken out of the House of John Hartley at Trawden, where they were assembled to worship God, by the High Constable and Soldiers, and, for refusing to take the Oaths, committed to Lancaster Goal, where they lay above five Weeks, namely, John Hartley, Peter Shackleton, James Smithson, Robert Atkinson, William Whaley, Nicholas Whitacre, John Smith, Samuel Driver, John Hargreaves, Joseph Catherly, William

William Heape, John Sagar, Stephen Sagar, Ellen Pollard, Richard Mitchel, Richard Hargreaves, Elizabeth Hariley, Mary Wilkinson, Jennet Swaine, Jane Clayton, Anne Pollard, Jane Wregles, Mary Mitchel, Anne Parker, and Alice Heape.

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On the 13th of the Month called *March*, *John West, Christopher West, William Hanson, Thomas Ackringly, Robert Ardington, Elizabeth Driver, and Anne Driver*, with *Thomas Patefield*, a poor labouring Man, at whose House they were met, were taken thence by Constables, and by two Justices, for refusing the Oaths, committed to *Lancaster Castle*. About this Time also, *Margaret Atkinson* was sent to Prison for reproving a Priest, *Alice Ambrose* and *Mary Tomkins* for declaring Truth in the Market-place; and *John Lawson* was committed, by an Order of Sessions, for refusing the Oath when tendred him in Court.

Beside the great Numbers already mentioned, we find that *John White* was taken from his own House, and sent to Prison, as were *William Tompson, John Tompson, John Moore, Henry Eccles, and Christopher Parkinson*, who had been taken at a Meeting, and *William Gibson*, who was committed for refusing the Oath of Allegiance. Also *James Smith* of *Poulton*, who after five Months Imprisonment, by means of an envious Priest, who had sworn the Peace against him, was brought to the Sessions, where the Priest, being called upon to shew the Cause of his pretended Fear, had nothing to say, but instead of assigning a Reason for what he had done, after some Pause moved the Court, that *James* might have the Oath of Allegiance tendred him; which the Justices complied with, and so instead of releasing the injured Man from his unjust Imprisonment, sent him back to Goal for refusing to Swear. About this Time also *William Brewer* and *John Thorne* were imprisoned, also *Henry Hales* of *Inskip*, and *Robert Biggs* of *Hollowmire*.

So that about the End of this Year, two Hundred and seventy Persons of this People were Prisoners together at *Lancaster*, mostly for refusing to take the Oaths, a Snare which few of them escaped, because by their constant and publick Manner of assembling for Worship, they stood always exposed to the Malice of those who sought Occasion against them.

ANNO 1661. On the 16th of the Month called *June*, *Edward Lord, Ralph Ridgeway, Nehemiah Poole, Edward Dawson, Richard Madder, James Bold, John Alred, John Blinkborne, Henry Wood, John Wood, John Abraham, Isaac Mossé, and Abraham Garside*, as they were coming out of a Meeting found the Passages beset with armed Men, who would not suffer them to depart till some Justices of the Peace came, who tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, saying, that *the Law had appointed that as a Means to discover Papists*, and upon their Refusal to take it sent them to *Lancaster Goal*.

More Imprison-
ments for not
Swearing.

At the Sessions and Affizes held this Summer, many of those who had been committed to Prison in the foregoing Year were set at Liberty, yet there remained about fifty Prisoners, which Number was soon after increased; for on the 1st of *September* a Warrant was issued from three of the Deputy-Lieutenants of the County and other Magistrates, directed to the Mayor of *Lancaster*, for apprehending all *Quakers* that should be found met together, by which Means the following Persons were sent to Prison, viz. *Thomas Cumming, Robert Wilson, Henry Crossfield, Thomas Harrison, William Mashter, Robert Taylor, George Escribge, Robert Walker, Thomas Hodgson, William Gunson, John Fowler, Timothy Taylor, Robert Bruce, William Taylor, Matthew Jepsen, Robert Thornton, Bryan Hodgson, William Weaver, George Cawson, William Harrison, Robert Mayor, William Coward, and Richard Hinde*. Several others also, of those lately discharged, being taken again at a Meeting at *Cardmell*, were recommit-
mitted, and with them *William Pull, Philip Braithwaite, and Richard Simpson*.

At the Quarter Sessions held in the Month called *January* this Year, the following Remonstrance from the Prisoners in *Lancaster Castle* was presented, and read by the Clerk in open Court, viz.

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1661.

A Remon-
strance to the
Justices at
Quarter Ses-
sions.

" To the Justices in the Commission for the Peace in this County, and
" now in the Town of Lancaster, or to any others whom this may
" concern, to read and consider in the Spirit of Meekness.

" SHEWETH,

" **T**HAT we the Subscribers, with others our fellow Prisoners, were by
" Order from some of you, or your fellow Justices of the Peace, ap-
" prehended and sent to Prison, where we have innocently and patiently suf-
" fered Bonds for the Space of fourteen Weeks (and some more) this Winter
" Season, although nothing can be justly laid to our Charge, as Matter
" of Fact, deserving such an Imprisonment, both to the Prejudice of our
" Health, the Ruin of our Estates, and the Expence of our Time, in our
" Separation from our Wives, Children, and Families, and from our La-
" bour in our lawful Callings in the Creation, whereby we might be in a
" Capacity to help others, and not to be burdensome to any, being, as you
" well know, Husbandmen and Tradesmen, upon whose Diligence and daily
" Labour, the Subsistence of our Families, as to the outward, consists; the
" Neglect whereof may in all likelihood impoverish them and us, and so
" bring an unnecessary Charge and Burden upon others, which if it should be
" incurred upon this Account, and by this Imprisonment, could not be laid
" to the Charge of the Oppressed, whose Suffering is but upon Suspicion, and
" not for any actual Transgression, but only for Conscience-sake, not for any
" Wrong, Injury, or Offence, either intended or acted against any Person or
" Power appointed of God for the punishing of evil Doers, and for the Praise
" of them that do well, for unto such our Souls are subject for Conscience-
" sake, and we desire nothing from you but that we may live quietly and
" peaceably in our own Houses, eat our own Bread, and follow our
" own Callings in the Fear of God, for the Good of all, and to meet to
" serve and worship our God, according as he requires of us: And if you
" will not grant these Things unto us, then shall we lie down in the Peace
" of our God, and patiently suffer under you, as we have done under those
" Powers whom the Lord God hath overturned by his Power; and remember
" you are in his Hand, and if you trouble and afflict us for so doing, then
" will the Lord our God trouble and afflict you, (mind that) they are the
" Words of Truth to you. 2 *Theff.* i. 6, 7. Now you knowing that our
" Commitment was only upon Suspicion, and nothing can justly be laid to
" our Charge worthy of these our Bonds: We therefore put you in Mind
" hereby, to consider of our present Condition, and compare it with the
" Cause, and do unto us as you would be dealt with in Case of Conscience,
" and as you are Ministers of the Law, look into the perfect Law of Liberty,
" which saith, *Whatsoever ye would that Men should do unto you, do ye even
" so to them, undo the heavy Burdens, and let the Oppressed go free*, for the
" Lord requires it of you, *to do justly, and to love Mercy*; and we do expect
" from you Justice and Equity, our Right and Privilege to labour in our
" Callings, that as becometh *Saints* we may serve our God, and as *Subjects* we
" may serve our King and Country in all just Requirings; and this we leave
" to your Consideration, expecting to receive some Answer from you, tending
" to the Enlargement of us who are Prisoners.

" Subscribed in the Behalf of our selves, and the rest of our fellow Pri-
" soners, who are in Number about fifty, which suffer upon this Ac-
" count."

Lancaster Castle, the 14th of
the Eleventh Month 1661.

The

The Justices at that Sessions took their Cause into Consideration, and having their Minds disposed to Compassion and Mercy, ordered all the Prisoners to be indicted, fined such as were convicted in very small Sums, and then caused them to be set at Liberty.

ANNO 1662. In this Year Thomas Moon, William Brewer, John White, John Townsend, and John Moon, for Demands of 2l. 14s. 5d. for Tithes, had Cattle and Goods taken from them by Distress to the Value of 15l. 19s. Also Gilbert Whiteside for a Claim of 1l. 10s. for Tithe, was committed to Lancaster Castle, where he suffered twenty three Months Imprisonment. Taken also from George Lydiatt, Roger Leatherbarrow, and Richard Johnson, for 19s. 3d. demanded for Steeple-house Rates, Goods to the Value of 3l. 8s. 2d.

In this Year George Braithwaite and George Holme were imprisoned, and John Sands died a Prisoner for refusing to Swear.

ANNO 1663. Taken from Roger Hartley, Stephen Sagar, John Sagar, and Richard Hargreaves, for Demands of 3l. 5s. for Tithes, Goods worth 11l. 10s. 6d. There were also Prisoners this Year in Lancaster Castle for Tithes, Thomas Curwen, Richard Cubban, Isaac Ashton, Thomas Chaddock, Henry Woods, Richard Johnson, John Smallshaw, and Henry Hulgreaue.

In this Year Oliver Atherton, who had been in Prison about two Years and an Half at the Suit of the Countess of Derby for Tithes, being a Man of a weakly Constitution, through long Imprisonment in a cold damp unwholesome Place, was brought so low and weak in Body, that there appeared no Hope of his Life, unless he might be removed from thence: His weak Condition was represented to the Countess in a Letter sent her by his Son: The young Man returned to his Father on his dying Bed, and told him that the Countess denied him any Liberty, to which the dying Man faintly replied, *She hath been the Cause of shedding much Blood, but this will be the heaviest Blood that ever she spilt: And soon after died.* His Body was delivered to his Friends to be interred at Ormskirk, where he had dwelt. In their Way thither they fixed on the publick Places at Garstang, Preston, and other Towns, a Paper with this Inscription, "This is Oliver Atherton of Ormskirk Parish, persecuted to Death by the Countess of Derby for good Conscience toward God and Christ, because he could not give her Tithes, &c." At the same Time three others of this People were confined in the same Prison at the Suit of the said Countess, one of whom writ a Letter on Behalf of himself and his fellow Prisoners, shewing that it was not of Willfulness, Stubbornness, or Covetousness, that they refused to pay her Tithes, but purely in good Conscience toward God and Christ; and letting her know, that if she should be suffered to keep them there also till Death, yet they could not yield to pay her: And therefore desired her to consider their Case in a Christian Spirit, and not bring their Blood upon her also: But she continued inexorable toward them, who had already suffered thirty Months Imprisonment at her Suit: She also threatened to complain to the King and Council against the Town of Garstang, for suffering the Paper concerning Oliver Atherton's Death to be put upon their Cross. Her Anger on that Occasion caused the People there to be more observant of what followed, and to make such Reflections as to them occurred, when they took Notice that, *On that Day three Weeks when Oliver Atherton's Body was carried through Ormskirk to be buried, the Countess died, and her dead Body was carried that Day seven Weeks through the same Town to her Burying-place.*

In the same Year also, John Satterthwaite and Samuel Sandys died Prisoners for their Testimony against Tithes. And Thomas Chorley, Thomas Waters, William Greave, John Stubbs, Thomas Davenport, James Brown, William Wilson, Edward Satterthwaite, and George Holme, were committed to Prison for refusing the Oath of Allegiance when tendred by the Magistrates.

In this Year George Fox was again imprisoned in Lancaster Castle, and Margaret Fell soon after, of which take her own Account as published in the Collection of her Works, pag. 7, 8. viz. "George Fox went into Westmorland" and

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SHIRE.
1661.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

Death of
J. Sands.

For Tithes.

Suffering and
Death of
O. Atherton.

G. Fox again
imprisoned.

LANCA-
SHIRE.
1663.

M. Fell's Ac-
count of G.
Fox's and her
own Imprison-
ment.

Abstract of
the Trial of
M. Fell.

and Cumberland, and had some Meetings among Friends, and came to Swaribmore, and they (the Justices) sent out Warrants for him and took him, and sent him to Lancaster Castle. About a Month after, the same Justices sent for me to Ulverstone, where they were sitting, and when I came there they asked me several Questions, and seemed to be offended at me for keeping a Meeting at my House, and said, *They would tender me the Oath of Allegiance.* I answered, *They know I could not Swear, and why should they send for me from my own House, when I was about my lawful Occasions, to ensnare me, what had I done?* They said, *If I would not keep Meetings at my House, they would not tender me the Oath.* I told them, *I should not deny my Faith and Principles for any Thing they could do against me, and while it pleaseth the Lord to let me have an House, I would endeavour to worship him in it.* So they caused the Oath to be read, and tendred it to me, and when I refused it, telling them, *I could not Swear for Conscience-sake, Christ Jesus having forbid it,* they made a *Mittimus*, and committed me Prisoner to Lancaster Castle, and there George Fox and I remained Prisoners until next Assizes, and they indicted us upon the Statute for denying the Oath of Allegiance, for they tendred it to both of us again at the Assizes, and the Indictments were found against us." But their Trial was put off till another Assizes, and they continued Prisoners.

ANNO 1664. An Abstract of the Trial of Margaret Fell at the Assizes holden at Lancaster the 29th Day of the Month called August 1664.

Margaret Fell was brought to the Bar, and her Indictment read.

Judge. *Come, will you take the Oath?*

M. F. There is a Clause in the Indictment, that the Churchwardens informed of Something, which seemeth, that should be the Ground or Cause of this Indictment: I desire to know what that Information was, and what the Transgression was, by which I came under the Law.

Judge. *Mistress, we are not to dispute that: You are here indicted, and you are here to answer, and to plead to your Indictment.*

M. F. I am first to seek the Ground and Cause wherefore I am indicted, for being that the Churchwardens did inform, my Question is, What Matter of Fact they did inform of, for I was sent for from my own House, from amongst my Children and Family, when I was about my outward Occasions, when I was in no Meeting, neither was it a Meeting-day; therefore I desire to know what this Foundation or Matter of Fact was, for there is no Law against the Innocent and Righteous, and if I be a Transgressor, let me know wherein.

Judge. *You say well, the Law is made for Transgressors: But Mistress, do you go to Church?*

M. F. I do go to Church.

Judge. *What Church?*

M. F. The Church of Christ.

Judge. *But do you go to Church among other People? You know what I mean.*

M. F. What dost thou call a Church, the House or the People? The House you all know is Wood and Stone, but if thou callest the People a Church, to that I answer. As for the Church of England that now is, I was gathered unto the Lord's Truth, unto which I now stand a Witness, before this Church was a Church. I was separated from the general Worship of the Nation, when there was another set up than that which is now, and was persecuted by that Power that then was, and suffered much Hardship; and would you now have us deny our Faith and our Principles, which we have suffered for so many Years, and turn to your Church contrary to our Conscience.

Judge. *We spend Time about these Things; come to the Matter in Hand: What say you to the Oath, and to the Indictment?*

M. F. I say to the Oath, as I have said in this Place before now: Christ Jesus hath commanded me not to Swear at all, and that is the only Cause, and

no other, the righteous Judge of Heaven and Earth knoweth, before whose Throne and Justice we shall all appear one Day, and his Eye sees and beholds us all at this Present, and he sees and hears all our Actions, for the Place of Judgment is weighty : And this I do testify unto you here, where the Lord's Eye beholds us all, that for the Matter or Substance of the Oath, and for the End for which it is intended, I do own one Part, and deny the other, that is to say, I do own Truth, Faithfulness, and Obedience to the King, and all his just and lawful Commands and Demands. And I also deny all Plottings, Contrivings against the King, and all *Popish* Supremacy and Conspiracy, and I can no more transgress against King *Charles* in these Things, than I can disobey *Christ Jesus's* Commands : And by the same Power and Virtue of the same Word which hath commanded me *Not to Swear at all*, the same doth bind me in my Conscience, that I can neither plot nor contrive against the King, nor do him nor any Man upon Earth any Wrong. And I do not deny this Oath, because it is the Oath of Allegiance, but I deny it because it is an Oath, because *Christ Jesus* hath said I shall *not Swear at all, neither by Heaven, nor by Earth, nor any other Oath*. If I might gain the whole World for swearing an Oath, I could not, and whatever I have to lose this Day for not swearing of an Oath, I am willing to offer it up.

Judge. *What say you to the Indictment?*

M. F. What should I say? I am clear and innocent of wronging any Man upon the Earth, as my little Child that stands by me ; and if any here have any Thing to lay to my Charge, let them come down and testify it before you all, and if I be clear and innocent, you have no Law against me.

Then Colonel Kirby and the Sheriff whispered to the Judge, whereupon she thus spake to the Colonel.

M. F. Let us have no Whispering : If thou hast any Thing to lay to my Charge, or to speak against me, come down here, and testify against me.

Judge. *Jury, take Notice she doth not take the Oath.*

M. F. This Matter is weighty to me, whatever it be to you, on many Accounts, and I would have the Jury take Notice of it, and to consider seriously what they are going to do : I stand here before you upon Account of the Loss of my Liberty and my Estate : Secondly, I stand here in obeying *Christ's* Commands, and so keeping my Conscience clear, which if I obey this Law, and King *Charles's* Commands, I defile my Conscience, and transgress against *Jesus Christ*, who is the King of my Conscience ; and the Cause and Controversy in this Matter, that you are all here to judge of this Day is betwixt *Christ Jesus* and King *Charles*, and I am his Servant and Witness this Day, and this is his Cause, and whatsoever I suffer it is for him, and so let him plead my Cause when he pleaseth.

Judge to the Jury. *Are you agreed? Have you found it?*

Jury. For the King.

M. F. I have Council to plead to my Indictment.

The Court adjourned till after Dinner, when being met again, they proceeded.

M. F. I desire we may have Time till to Morrow Morning to bring in our Arrest of Judgment.

Judge. *You shall have it.* — Mrs. Fell, you wrote to me concerning the Badness of your Prisons, that it rains in, and that they are not fit for People to lie in,

M. F. The Sheriff knows, and has been told of it several Times, and now it is raining, if you will send, you may see whether they be fit for People to lie in or not.

Then Colonel Kirby standing up to excuse the Sheriff, and to extenuate the Badness of the Place.

M. F. said, If you were to be in it your selves, you would think it hard, but your Mind is only in Cruelty to commit others, as *William Kirby* here has done, who hath committed ten of our Friends, and put them into a cold

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SHIRE.
1664.

Sentence of
Premunire
passed upon
her.

G. Fox's In-
dictment
quash'd.

The Oath again
tendered him.

His Trial.

Sentence of
Premunire
passed upon
him in his
Absence.

Room, where there was nothing but bare Boards to lie on, where they have lain several Nights, some of them above threescore Years of Age, and known to be honest Men in the Country where they live; and when William Kirby was asked, *Why they might not have Liberty to shift for themselves for Beds?* He answered, *They were to commit them to Prison, but not to provide Prisons for them.* And being asked, *Who should do it then?* He answered, *The King.*

Judge. *You should not do so: They ought to have Prisons fit for Men.*

Next Morning her Council pleaded in Arrest of Judgment, and found several Errors in the Indictment, which yet the Judge would not admit of; but passed Sentence of Premunire upon her.

M. F. The Lord forgive thee for what thou hast done. This Law was made for Popish Reculants, but you pass Sentence but on few of them.

In her own Account of the Sentence passed upon her, which, she says, was, *That she should be out of the King's Protection, and forfeit all her Estate, real and personal, to the King, and suffer Imprisonment during Life.* She adds,

"But the great God of Heaven and Earth supported my Spirit under this severe Sentence, that I was not terrified, but gave this Answer to Judge Turner, who gave the Sentence, *Although I am out of the King's Protection, yet I am not out of the Protection of Almighty God.* So then I remained in Prison twenty Months before I could get so much Favour of the Sheriff, as to go to my own House, which then I had for a little Time, and returned to Prison again." Where she continued about four Years, till released by an Order of the King and Council.

At the same Assizes George Fox was also called, and his Indictment read, but he strenuously insisting upon many material Errors in the Indictment, and making the same plainly appear to the Judge and Court, they acknowledged the same to be sufficient to quash the Indictment, which accordingly was set aside: And he thereupon demanding his Liberty, and asking *Whether he was free from the Matter of that Indictment?* The Judge answered *Yes*: But at the same Time tendered him the Oath again, and recommitted him to Prison till the next Assizes, which were held on the 16th of the Month called March 1664-5, when he was tried on another Indictment. An Abstract of his Trial was as follows,

The Indictment was read, and the Jury called over,

Clerk. *Mr. Fox, Have you any Thing against any of the Jury.*

G. F. I know none of them.

Then three Witnesses were sworn, who testified, that the Oath was tendered him last Assizes.

Judge. *Come, come, this Thing was not done in a Corner, did you take the Oath the last Assizes?*

G. F. They gave me the Book to Swear on, and the Book saith, *Swear not at all*: But I told them, *If they could prove that after Christ Jesus and his Apostles had forbidden Men to Swear, they had allowed it, I would Swear*: Thus I said, and my Allegiance lies in Truth and Faithfulness, not in Swearing, and so should all your Allegiance lie, if you did well. I do not deny Swearing upon some Account, and own it upon others, but I deny it, because Christ and the Apostle have said, *I should not Swear at all.*

Judge. *I shall not dispute with you, but in point of Law.*

G. F. I have something to speak to the Jury concerning the Indictment.

But the Judge would not admit it.

G. F. Is the Oath only to be tendered to the King's Subjects?

Judge. *Yes.*

G. F. Then look, and you will see the Word *Subject* is left out of the Indictment.

Judge. *Take him away, take him away.*

So the Goaler took him away, and when he was gone, the Jury brought in a Verdict for the King, and George was called no more, but Sentence of Premunire was passed upon him in his Absence.

Thus

Thus was he returned to his Place of close Confinement, where he had lain all the Winter before, viz. a smoky Tower, sometimes so thick with Smoke that he could scarce see the Candle, when burning, where he was at Times almost smothered: Besides, it rained in upon his Bed, and his Shirt was sometimes wet as Dung in attempting to stop out the Rain. In short, he was so starved with Cold and Wet, that his Body was much swelled and benumbed.

In this Year George Pye of Lydiatt, for a Demand of 3*l.* suffered Distress of six Cows worth 20*l.* Also Robert Bruce of Hasluck, for a Claim of 40*s.* had his Goods taken away to the Value of 8*l.* And John Minshall of Sankey, for 30*s.* claimed for Tithe, had a Steer, a Cow, and other Things taken from him worth 9*l.* and for the same Claim also suffered eight Months Imprisonment.

Of those, who this Year had their Goods distrained for Steeple-house Rates, were William Wireside, Mary Boul, and Gilbert Whiteside.

In this Year (also, or the next preceding, Goods were taken by Distress for meeting together to worship God,

From Robert Wales, Robert Briggs, T. Crossfield, James Lancaster, Richard Cleaton, and Richard Fell, to the Value of 21*l.* 14*s.* 0*d.*

Richard Walker, Giles Walker, Thomas Charley, Robert Widders, and Thomas Leaper, to the Value of 21*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*

Alexander Rigby had taken from him two Horses worth 5*l.* and James Gregory a Cow worth 3*l.* These two last named, as also Jonathan Rigby, George Bradshaw, Ralph Wood, Alice Pemberton, and Margaret Bradley, were committed to the House of Correction for three Months. There were also imprisoned for their religious Meetings, Thomas Warriner, James Hadwen, Robert Clark, Richard Borough, and William Jackson.

ANNO 1665. Taken by Distress for Tithes, From Thomas Moone, for 1*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.* demanded, Goods worth 14*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.* John Minshall, 0*l.* 14*s.* 0*d.* Taken 17*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

For Demands of 2*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.* Taken 17*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

* On the 20th Day of the sixth Month 1665, there having been a Meeting at the House of Thomas Sale, near Bury, which Meeting being ended, and some Friends walking not far from the House, there came two Constables of Bury, and two Churchwardens, so called, of the same, with a Company of Men with them, who without any Warrant, violently took seven of us to Bury, before one called a Justice, who demanded on what Account we were at Thomas Sale's. We said, In the Fear of God, to worship him in Spirit and in Truth: And the next Day two Justices, so called, examined us apart, labouring to crush us, yet nevertheless, being guided by one Spirit, we answered one and the same Thing in Effect: and although they could prove nothing against us, but only being met together in the Name and Fear of God, they sent seven of us to Lancaster Goal, viz. Thomas Sale, James Sikes, John Ashton, Arthur Walker, Thomas Yates, Richard Malher, and John Wood, who left behind us thirty five Children, besides our Wives and the rest of our Families, all which we have given up into the Hands of God, having Hope in him, who in his tender Love and fatherly Pity hath called us, and made known unto us the Riches of his Goodness.

LANCASHIRE.
1664.

His hard and
cruel Confinement.
Sufferings for
Tithes.

Distresses for
Meetings.

Distresses

Proceedings at
a Meeting in
T. Sale's
House.

* This Article is inserted in the very Words of one of the Sufferers.

LANCA-
SHIRE.
1665.

Distress for
for refusing to
Swear.

Easter Offer-
ings.

Imprisonments
and Abuses of
W. Clayton.

G. Fox re-
moved to
Scarborough
Castle.

Imprisonments
and Abuses of
G. Fox.

Goodness through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, for whose Sake we are freely given up to bear our Testimony amongst this ungodlike Generation, rejoicing greatly that we are thought worthy to suffer for his Name's Sake, whose Name we bless, and to whom be sung Praises, over the Heads of our Persecutors, for ever and ever.

John Berley of Lancaster for 11 s. and 8 d. Fine, for refusing to Swear when summoned on a Jury, had fifteen Sheep taken away which cost him 3 l. 5 s. 4 d. John Townson, chosen Constable, and refusing to take the usual Oath for that Office, had a Cow taken from him worth 4 l.

William Satterthwaite, Robert Pennington, Thomas Pennington, George Benson, Thomas Docwra, and Michael Wilson, were taken from a Meeting at Hawkhead, and by the Justices sent to Prison for refusing the Oaths. And for the same Cause James Harley and John Brewer also suffered Imprisonment; and William Hutton and John Greenwood had their Goods taken by Distress.

Francis Benson, for being at a Meeting, had his Coat and Hat taken from him, and his Daughter her Petticoat. There were also imprisoned this Year for Meetings, James Fell, Leonard Fell, Christopher Milner, William Holme, Bernard Benson, William Rigg, Thomas Sale, James Sikes, and Thomas Yates.

Reginald Walker, Elizabeth Wilson, and Michael Wilson, for Demands of 2 d. each for Easter-Offerings, suffered Distress of their Clothes and other Things to more than twenty Times that Value.

As William Clayton was preaching in a Meeting at Padisbam, the Priest of that Parish, attended by a Constable with a Warrant, came into the Meeting, pulled William out into the Street, and tore his Coat. The Constable then carried him before the Justices, who tendered him the Oath of Allegiance, and upon his Refusal to take it, committed him to Prison till the next Sessions, when the Justices fined him 5 l. for being at an unlawful Assembly, and committed him to the House of Correction for three Months. The Officers, for pretended Fees and Charges of carrying him thither, took his Coat off his Back. The Keeper put him into the Dungeon five Days and Nights, till some moderate People of the Town procured him the common Liberty of the House for the rest of the Time.

James Sikes, of Heyside, for absenting himself from the National Worship, had a Cow and a Calf taken from him worth 4 l.

We return to George Fox, whom we left last Year under Sentence of Premunire in Lancaster Castle. About the Month called May this Year, he was removed to Scarborough Castle, and there confined in a Room next the Sea-side, so open that the Wind and Rain came in, without Chimney or Fire-place, so that his Clothes were wet, and his Fingers swelled as big again as usual, nor could he, though he was at some Expence about it, keep out the Weather. They suffered few or no Friends to come at him, so that he was, as to them, like a Man buried alive. The Deputy-Governour told him, that the King, knowing he had a great Interest in the People, had sent him thither, that if there should be any Stirring in the Nation, they should hang him over the Wall, to keep the People down. To which he answered, If that be desired and permitted you, I am ready, for I never feared Death nor Sufferings, but am known to be an innocent, peaceable Man, free from all Stirrings and Plottings, and am one that seeks the Good of all Men. At length his Patience having surmounted their Cruelty, and his Innocence pleading for him, the Keepers became more favourable and respectful to him, so that he wanted not the common Accommodations of a Prisoner, and when the Officers and Soldiers had Occasion to speak of him, they would say, He was as stiff as a Tree, and as pure as a Bell, for we could never bow him. He remained a Prisoner seventeen Months.

ANNO 1666. In this Year George Fox was released from his Imprisonment by Order of the King and Council. And the Governour of the Castle gave him the following Passport,

PERMIT

“PERMIT the Bearer hereof, *George Fox*, late a Prisoner here, and now discharged by his Majesty's Order, quietly to pass about his lawful Occasions without any Molestation. Given under my Hand at Scarborough Castle the 1st Day of September 1666.

LANCASTER SHIRE.
1666.

G. Fox's Pass-
port.

“JORDAN CROSSLANDS,

“Governour of Scarborough Castle.”

In this Year *George Benson*, *Richard Walker*, and *William Satterthwaite*, were committed to Prison for refusing to pay Tithes; as were *Richard Johnson* and *John Smallshaw*, the Former for 2 s. and the Other for 1 l. 10 s. demanded by *Edward Morton* Priest, at whose Suit they remained Prisoners near two Years. Six others for Demands of 4 l. 16 s. 4 d. for Tithes, suffered Distress of Cattle and other Goods to the Value of 15 l. 12 s. 8 d.

Sufferings for
Tithes,

James Fell, *Christopher Milner*, *William Holme*, *William Salthouse*, and *Thomas Fisher*, were taken from a Meeting at *Swarthmore*, and sent to Prison; as were *George Benson*, *Reginald Holme*, *John Dixon*, *Michael Wilson*, *Edward Hird*, and *Reginald Walker*, who had been taken at a Meeting in the House of *Giles Walker* of *Walker-Ground*.

and for Meet-
ing.

ANNO 1667. *Thomas Keckwick*, of *Bold*, was sued to an Outlawry at the Suit of *Orlando Bridgman* Impropiator, for Tithes, and after eleven Weeks Imprisonment had four Horses and Cows taken from him to the Value of 26 l. 8 s. 8 d. And at another Time for a Demand of 8 s. suffered Distress of Goods worth 1 l. 6 s. Taken also from several others for 1 l. 8 s. 6 d. demanded, Goods to the Value of 4 l. 19 s. 4 d.

On the 6th of October this Year, *Leonard Fell* was cast into Prison for Tithes, at the Suit of the Priest of *Aldingham*, but was discharged about a Fortnight after by the Death of his Prosecutor.

John Townson and *John White* were imprisoned in *Lancaster Castle* on Writs de Excommunicato capiendo for a Demand of 6 d. from the Former, and 8 d. from the Latter, toward the Repairs of the Steeple-house.

ANNO 1668. *John Sagar*, prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes, was excommunicated for not appearing there at a Time when he was close shut up in Goal, and in Consequence of that Excommunication was detained in Prison four Years and an Half. His Wife, afflicted at the Loss of her Husband, and the Difficulty of supporting four Children in his Absence, became distracted: The Prosecutor would not permit him the Liberty of so much as once visiting his Wife in that doleful Condition. *James Whip*, of *Twisden*, was also excommunicated and sent to Goal.

Cruel Imprisonment of
J. Sagar.
Persecution

In this Year *James Taylor*, *Thomas Barrow*, *Thomas Atkinson*, and *Laurence Newton*, had Cattle and Sheep taken from them by Distress for Tithes, to the Value of 28 l. 5 s. Several others also for Demands of 4 l. 14 s. 2 d. for Tithes, suffered Distress of Goods to the Amount of 17 l. 16 s. 10 d.

Distress for
Tithes.

On the 5th of the Month called April 1668, *John Ashton*, *John Haydock*, *Thomas Lorimer*, *Hugh Taylor*, *Henry Wood*, and *Thomas Sale*, were committed to *Lancaster Goal* from a Meeting at the said *John Ashton's* House. One of them, *Hugh Taylor*, died in Prison, and the Rest continued there fifteen Weeks. On the 3d of the next Month, those who would have met again at the same Place were kept out by Force, and when met in the Street, were beaten, dragged away on the Ground, pushed into the Mire and Hedges, and used inhumanly. On the 18th of September, a Lieutenant with Soldiers and others came to a Meeting at *Henry Robinson's* House in *Padisham*, and furiously dragged away *William Clayton* then preaching; whom, with the said *Henry Robinson*, *Francis Dunn*, and *James Whipp*, they carried before a Justice of the Peace, who sent them to Prison till next Sessions, where *Dunn* and *Clayton* were fined 5 l. each, and the other two 3 l. 6 s. 8 d. each, and for Non-payment were committed to the House of Correction, where they lay ten Weeks. On

Death of
H. Taylor.

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the 22d of November twenty two Persons, taken at a Meeting in the same Place, were sent to the House of Correction, and detained there seven Weeks. Leonard Fell and Thomas Briggs, after a Meeting at Swarthmore, were taken, by an Officer with Soldiers, from their own Dwellings, and sent to Prison. At the next Sessions they were fined and recommitted.

ANNO 1669. Taken by Distress for Tithes,

		l.	s.	d.
Distresses for Tithes.	From Abraham Hayworth for 10s. demanded, Goods worth	2	10	0
	Henry Birtwistle, for the like Demand, an Heifer worth	1	13	4
	Abraham Hayworth, for 15s. demanded, a Cow worth	2	10	0
	Thomas and Alice Beakbain, for 3l. 14s. 5d. demanded, a Cow and Horse worth	5	15	0
		12	8	4

Imprisonments
and Distresses.

In this Year Reginald Walker, for 16s. demanded for Tithe of Wool, was imprisoned in Dalton Castle eighteen Weeks.

Roger Langworth, Anthony Shaw, Alexander Hatton, and Heskin Fell, were sent to Prison for meeting together to worship God, and Heskin Fell, while in Prison, was fined 20l. for suffering a Meeting at his House. Others also suffered by Distress for Meetings to the Value of 45l. 9s. 6d.

Sufferings for
Tithes.

ANNO 1670. Taken by Distress for Tithes from several Persons, for 2l. 5s. 8d. demanded, Goods worth 13l. 9s. 4d.

In this Year Reginald Walker was again imprisoned seven Weeks at Kendal, at the Suit of John Ambrose, Priest of Grassmore.

On the 31st of the Month called July this Year, the Friends assembled at John Ashton's House were taken without Warrant, and put into a Court-house all Night, and next Day carried before Laurence Rawlborn of Newball, a Justice of the Peace, who sent Thomas Lorimer, Roger Longworth, James Tamson, Heskin Fell, James Radcliff, Abraham Crossly, Anthony Shaw, Charles Dawson, and Alexander Hatton, to the House of Correction in Manchester. About the same Time certain Informers meeting some Friends going homeward from Rosendale, took their Names, and gave Information upon Oath that those Persons were met at a Meeting at Henry Birtwistle's House, of which the Informers, who had not been there, could not be legal Evidences. Nevertheless, upon that Information their Goods to the Value of above 35l. were taken away. They appealed to the Quarter Sessions, but were for some Time denied a Copy of the Information, so that two Sessions past before they could obtain an Hearing: At the third Sessions, though it was fully proved that the Witnesses had sworn against three Persons, as being at the Meeting, when they had only seen them, one at two Miles, another at Half a Mile, and the third at a Quarter of a Mile, Distance from thence, yet they found no Redress, one of the Justices declaring, that seeing the Quakers had Meetings at certain Houses, if Witnesses saw them coming from any of those Houses it should be sufficient to convict them. This Instance may serve to shew the Prejudice and Partiality of some Magistrates, and what slight Presumptions would pass for Proofs with those whose Minds were inclinable to Severity and Rigour against the Prosecuted on these Occasions.

Prejudice of
Magistrates.

Distress for
Marriage.

Thomas Beakbean, for a pretended Marriage Fee, had Goods taken from him worth 7s. though the Priest who claimed it had no Concern in marrying him: But he and his Wife took each other in Marriage before Witnesses in a publick Assembly of the Quakers.

Distresses.

ANNO 1671. Taken from Mary Hargreaves and John Hardiman, for Demands of 1l. 17s. for Tithes, Goods worth 5l. 7s. And from Edward Dawson, to the Value of 45s.

Many

Many Distresses were made for Meetings in this and the next preceding Year, by which Goods and Chattels were taken away to the Amount of 274*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* 4*d.* Beside which, when one of the Informers made Complaint to the Quarter Sessions of 3*l.* Charges he had been put to, they granted him a Warrant by which they took from several Persons Goods worth 16*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

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John Minshall, Samuel Barrow, George Birch, Thomas Barnes, Thomas Taylor, and Robert Barton, were committed to Prison for refusing to pay toward the Repairing of *Farnworth* Chapel. Three of them lay in Prison above eighteen Months, though the Demand on some of them was but 3*d.* and on none of them above 18*d.*

Imprisonment
and Distress
for Tithes.

ANNO 1672. John Smallshaw, for small Tithes of but 6*s.* Value, was sent to Prison, where he lay near two Years, and for the same Tithe had a Mare taken from him worth 40*s.*

Robert Atkinson, Elizabeth Barrow, Richard Brittain, Laurence Newton, and Thomas Atkinson, suffered by Distress of Cattle and Goods to the Value of 11*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* And from several others for Claims of 16*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for Tithes, Goods were taken away to the Value of 49*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*

John Curwen, imprisoned on a *Significavit*, at the Suit of *Theophilus Aimes* Priest of *Beacliff*, was detained seven Weeks, and had his Cattle and Goods taken away to the Value of 30*l.* Leonard Fell was also imprisoned at the Suit of the same Priest for a frivolous Demand of Tithe-hay; but 'twas observed that within about three Weeks after his Commitment his Prosecutor died.

Marriage-
Fees.

In this Year *Susanna Rose*, Widow, was prosecuted by *Thomas Marsden*, Vicar of *Walton*, for a Demand of 1*s.* 4*d.* for a Marriage-Fee, she having been married after the *Quakers* Method, to her deceased Husband. For refusing to comply with this unrighteous Demand she suffered seventeen Weeks Imprisonment in *Lancaster* Cattle.

False Accusa-
tion against a
married Wo-
man.

Elizabeth Hirt, of *West-Houghton*, was committed to the House of Correction at *Manchester* by the Procurement of *John Anger* a Priest, who dwelt at *Deane* near *Boulton*, upon a Charge of having two Children unlawfully begotten. She was detained there about ten Weeks, till the Quarter Sessions, and then released upon producing a Certificate signed by several Witnesses present at her Marriage.

Release of
Prisoners.

In this Year *Richard Clayton* and *Francis Dunn* were discharged out of Prison by the King's Letters Patent.

ANNO 1674. Roger Haydock was prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court at *Chester* for Tithes of about 30*s.* Value, and was committed to *Lancaster* Goal on the 3d of the Month called *May* this Year, where he continued Prisoner about eight Months. But on an Appeal, appearing to have been only a Servant to his Brother, he was discharged at that Time. But was soon after, together with *Heskin Fell*, recommitted by two Justices: The Form of their *Mittimus* was as follows,

Mittimus of
R. Haydock
and others.

Lancaster ss.
“FORASMUCH as Roger Haydock, Heskin Fell of Coppull, and
“ * Thomas Cotterill of Sberington Gent. within the Parish of Standish
“ within the County aforesaid and Diocese of Chester, have disobeyed and con-
“ temned the Process of the Ecclesiastical Court, for not appearing at Days
“ and Times appointed, to answer in a Cause depending in the said Court.
“ These are therefore in his Majesty's Name strictly to charge and command
“ you forthwith upon Receipt hereof to apprehend the Bodies of them the said
“ Roger Haydock, Heskin Fell, and Thomas Cotterill, and bring them forthwith
“ before us or one of us, or any other of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace
“ within this County, to find sufficient Sureties for their and every of their due
“ Obedience to the Process, Proceedings, Decrees or Sentences of the Eccle-
“ siastical

* Thomas Cotterill was not a Quaker, and was not sent to Prison: 'Tis probable he complied with the Prosecutor.

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"Ecclesiastical Court. And if any of them shall refuse so to do, that then you shall forthwith convey him or them so refusing to the common Goal, there to remain until he or they shall willingly do the same. See you fail not herein at your Peril. Given under our Hands and Seals at Eccleston the 21st Day of March 1674.

"CHRISTOPHER BANNISTER.
"HENRY HOUGHTON."

The Cause for which *Heskin Fell* was prosecuted, was a Claim of 1 s. 8 d. for Tithe of Hens, Hay, &c. for three Years.

Prosecution
for Tithes.

Richard Cubham, Edward Lion, and George Shaw, all of *Bickenstath*, were prosecuted in the *Exchequer* for Tithes, at the Suit of the *Lady Katharine Pye*, and were committed to Prison at *Lancaster* in the Month called *March* 1674. During their Imprisonment the Prosecutor's Agents broke their Gates and Hedges, entred their Lands, and carried away their Corn at Pleasure. In this Year also *Roger Harsnep, George Pye, and Roger Leatherbarrow*, were prosecuted for Tithes, the First at the Suit of *Alexander Baggerly*, Priest of *Aughton*, and the two last at the Suit of *Dr. Smallwood*.

Excommuni-
cations for
Steeple-house
Repairs.

Isaac Ashton and Hannah Kennedy, for refusing to pay 5 s. 5 d. each, and *Anne Atherton*, for refusing to pay 6 s. 8 d. toward the Repairing the Steeple-house at *Ormskirk*, were prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court and excommunicated. *Richard Johnson* was also prosecuted in that Court, excommunicated, and imprisoned, for not paying 12 s. 6 d. toward the Repairs of the Steeple-house at *Sephton*. But after a few Weeks was released by the Judge of Assize. Some Time before this, *John Fowler* and *George Carwson* had suffered four Months Imprisonment at *Lancaster* for a small Demand for Steeple-house Repairs.

Distresses for
Meetings.

Robert Salthouse and James Harrison suffered Distress of Goods for Meetings held at their Houses, the Former to the Value of 6 l. and the Latter of 11 l. 6 s.

For a Meeting at *James Smithson's* in *Marsden*, on the 30th of the Month called *August* 1674, Goods were taken from several Persons by Distress to the Amount of 45 l. 18 s. Also *Richard Colburne* of *Clitheroe*, for being at a religious Meeting, suffered Distress of a Cow worth 4 l. 5 s.

Sufferings for
Tithes.

ANNO 1675. *Thomas Bond, John Walker, and William Baines*, were Prisoners for Tithes in *Lancaster Castle* in the Month called *March*, and continued there about nine Weeks, one of them for a Demand of 3 s. and another but of 9 d.

In September, *Roger Harsnep*, after a Prosecution in the Bishop's Court for Tithes, at the Suit of *Alexander Baggerly*, Priest of *Aughton*, was committed to *Lancaster Goal*, where he lay about sixteen Months. In the same Month *Roger Haydock* was committed to the same Prison, at the Suit of *Ralph Bridgock*, Bishop of *Chester*, by Warrant from two Justices, grounded on a Significavit out of the Ecclesiastical Court. The Bishop writ a Letter to the Goaler, charging him not to let the said *Roger* have any Liberty. The Judge of Assize also, at the Bishop's Importunity, gave the Goaler the like Charge concerning him.

The Bishop's
Severity.

Imprisonment
for Tithes, and
Distresses for
Meetings.

In the Month called *January*, *Robert Hubbersty, Francis Flemming, William Waitbman, and James Waitbman*, were committed to *Lancaster Goal* on an *Exchequer* Prosecution, at the Suit of *Hugh Phillips*, Tithe-farmer under the Dean of *Worcester*. In this Year also, *John Grime* had an Horse-load of Meal worth about 20 s. taken from him without any Warrant or legal Proceeding, by *Laurence Ormond* Tithe-farmer. And in the same Year, the Distresses made for Fines upon the Act against Conventicles amounted to 34 l. 1 s. 1 d.

Imprisonment
for not Swear-
ing.

Heskin Fell, for refusing to take an Oath in the Bishop's Court at *Chester*, when cited thither for *Easter-Offerings*, was pronounced Contumacious, and by Warrant from two Justices committed to the Common Goal at *Lancaster*.

ANNO

* She was the Widow of *Oliver Atherton*, whose Death and Burial is before related.
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ANNO 1676. *Alice Haydock*, Widow, was prosecuted for Tithes by *Ralph Briddock*, Bishop of *Chester*, and was imprisoned at *Lancaster* in the Month called *July*. LANCA-
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On the 3d of the Month called *April*, *Elizabeth Wildman* of *Tatbam*, Widow, about sixty Years of Age, was committed to *Lancaster* Goal by a Writ *de excommunicato capiendo*, at the Suit of *Thomas Sharp*, Priest of *Tatbam*. After about nine Months Confinement she died there on the 3d of the Month called *January* following. Prosecutions
for Tithes.

Robert Walker, after three Years and an Half Imprisonment for Tithes, being kept very close by his Prosecutor's Order, in the Winter Season, contracted much Cold, and being of a tender Body, fell sick and died. He was imprisoned on a *Significavit* from the Ecclesiastical Court, at the Suit of *Edward Garthford*, Priest of *Lancaster*, for a Demand of 10 s. for small Tithes. Death of
R. Walker.

Henry Birtwistle, for a Claim of 10 s. for Tithes, had an Heifer taken from him worth 3 l. 6 s. 8 d. Distress.

John Moone, of the Parish of *Garstang*, was imprisoned in *Lancaster* Goal an whole Winter, at the Suit of *Thomas Butler*, for a Demand of 6 l. 0 s. 4 d. for Tithes, for which he had also his Goods taken from him to the Value of 20 l. and upwards. The said *John Moone*, in his own Account of his Imprisonment, expresses himself thus, "The Lord was with me in the Prison, and made me more to rejoice than those that have Abundance of Riches, of Corn, of Wine, and Oil." Imprisonment
and Distress.

In this Year, for Claims of 9 l. 11 s. 3 d. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for Tithes, were Cattle, Sheep, and other Things taken by Distress to the Value of 30 l. 19 s. 8 d. From *John Vipon* was taken a Piece of *Kersey* worth 1 l. 10 s. And from several others Corn out of the Field worth 5 l. 6 s. 10 d. Distresses.

Mary Walker, for a Meeting at her House, was fined 20 l. and *William Wilson* was fined the like Sum for preaching there, also several others present had their Goods taken away to the Value of 3 l. Fine for
Meeting.

On the 13th of *December*, *James Dilworth* of *Thornly*, for a Meeting at his House, had two Oxen taken from him worth 9 l. *Leonard Fell*, for preaching in a Meeting at *Windermere*, suffered Distress of *Malt* to the Value of 20 l. And *William Rigg*, *John Bownas*, and *Thomas Pennington*, for being there, had Goods taken from them worth 1 l. 10 s. 8 d.

William Heape, for a Meeting held at his House in *Marsden*, had five Beasts taken from him worth 14 l. And several others, for being at the same Meeting, Goods to the Value of 2 l. 0 s. 6 d.

For a Meeting at *Freckleton*, *Thomas Tomlinson*, *Henry Tomlinson*, and *John Townson*, suffered Distress of Cattle and Goods to the Value of 22 l. 10 s. These Distresses were taken by Warrant granted by *Edward Rigby* of *Preston*, a persecuting Justice, who in the Excess of a misguided Zeal, threatened, that he would root the Quakers out of the Hundred where he dwelt: And farther said, that all the Laws yet made against the Quakers were too short, and that he would be of the first that should move for a Law to have them tied to, and dragged at either an Horse's or Cart's Tail. Such a virulent Temper, added to the Rigour of the Laws, made the Sufferers Case sometimes very grievous.

In *October* this Year, *Charles Lee* of *Clitheroe*, a labouring Man, for a Meeting at his House, had taken from him four Horses with their Accoutrements, one Heifer, a Cow, and four Calves, worth 26 l. 11 s. 8 d. And in the next Month *Alexander Salisbury*, for preaching at a Meeting in the House of *Thomas Garner*, was fined 20 l. and had his Cattle taken away at several Times to the Value of 60 l.

ANNO 1677. For a Meeting at *Franley* on the 24th of the Month called *June*, were taken from *Thomas Crosby*, *Joseph Coppuck*, and *John Johnson*, Goods worth 8 l. 5 s. Prosecutions
of several
Kinds.

John Veepan, *William Whaley*, *Richard Hargreaves*, *John Bordman*, and *John Grime*, after a Prosecution in the *Wapentake* Court for 3 s. 6 d. demanded for

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Grievous Suf-
ferings.

Falshood of
Informers.

Exchequer.

R. Long-
worth's Mit-
timus.

Sufferings for
Tithes.

Tithes, had taken from them Cattle, and other Goods, to the Value of 15*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*

George Pye, for 5*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* demanded for Tithes, had Judgment given against him on the Statute for treble Damages, upon which he had taken from him four Cows and other Goods worth 21*l.*

Robert Withers, of Overkellat, was sued by James Greenwood Tithe-farmer, for five Years Tithe of Hay, for which he obtained a Judgment for treble Damages 6*l.* 15*s.* and for five Years Tithe of Corn, for which Judgment was given for 65*l.* 15*s.* being treble the Demand and Costs: For all which Distress was made, and his Cattle, Sheep, and Corn taken away to the Value of 98*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*

In October, George Rigg and Edward Stones, Informers, gave Intelligence of a Meeting at Height to Miles Dolding Justice, who upon their Oaths convicted thirty five Persons, and granted his Warrant for Distress, by which Goods were taken from ten of them to the Value of 35*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* Of the Persons at that Time convicted, two were at a great Distance in another County, a third was two Miles from the Place, and a fourth was at Home with her Child, having lately lain in: But it was common with the Informers to Swear at all Adventures, against those who usually were at the Meetings, whether present at that Time or not. And such Mistakes as these were easily overlookt by the Justices, who screened the Offenders under the plausible Character of *useful Men*, and the *King's Witnesses*. In this Year also several were prosecuted in the *Exchequer* on old Statutes made against *Papish* Recusants, to the Forfeiture of two Thirds of their real Estates, the Rent of which was seized by the Sheriff for the King's Use. The Sums so taken amounted to 60*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*

ANNO 1678. Roger Longworth, of Bolton, occasionally travelling into *Cheshire*, was by two officious Justices sent to Prison. A Copy of his *Mittimus* follows, viz.

“ Com. Chester *js.*

“ FORASMUCH as by Reason of several Expressions which we have
“ this Day, at *Holme* in the County of *Chester*, heard from a strange Per-
“ son, who calls himself *Roger Longworth*, of *Bolton* in the County of *Lancaster*,
“ we do suspect that the said *Roger Longworth* is a *Papist*, and thereupon ac-
“ cording to his Majesty's Commission, under the great Seal of *England*, to us
“ and others directed, we have this Day tendred unto him the said *Roger Long-*
“ *worth* the Oath of Obedience, and the Oath of Supremacy, both which
“ Oaths the said *Roger Longworth*, being above the Age of eighteen Years,
“ hath this Day refused to take. These are therefore in his Majesty's Name to
“ require and command you forthwith upon Sight hereof to receive into your
“ Custody the Person of the said *Roger Longworth*, whom we have herewith
“ sent you, and him there safely keep until the next general Quarter Sessions
“ of the Peace, to be held in and for this County of *Chester*, without Bail or
“ Mainprize. For so doing this shall be your Warrant. Given under our
“ Hands and Seals at *Holme* this 28th Day of February, Anno rni Caroli secundi
“ Dei Gra. Angliæ, &c. Tricesimo, Annoq; Dom. 1678-9.

To the Keeper of
Chester Castle.

“ THO. MANWARING *Bart.*

“ JEFFERY SHACKERLY *Knt.*”

After he had been detained in Prison above two Months, he was set at Liberty by a private Order from the said Justice *Manwaring*.

In this Year *Andrew Lund*, *Henry Townson*, and *John Townson*, for trivial Demands of Tithes, were imprisoned in the *Fleet* at *London*, where they had been above two Years, and continued about two Years after, till the Death of their Prosecutor.

Thomas

Thomas Skerray, of Wrea, Husbandman, and Agnes Skerray of the same, LANCASHIRE. 1678. Widow, were imprisoned on Writs de Excommunicato capiendo at the Suit of Lord Morley, of Hornby, for Tithes. Also Charles Lee, of Clitheroe, Husbandman, for 3 s. 4 d. Tithe, at the Suit of Sir Ralph Ashton, of Whaley. They both remained Prisoners about two Years.

In or about this Year also, Seizures were made on Exchequer Procefs for two Thirds of the real Estates of many Persons in this County, to the Amount of 74 l. 17 s. 4 d. Some of those Seizures were very exorbitant, amounting to five or six Times the Sums demanded.

At a Wapentake Court, held for the Hundred of Lonsdale, several Judgments were obtained, and Distresses thereupon made next Day, by which were taken

	l.	s.	d.	
From Thomas Atkinson, for 1 l. 13 s. 4 d. Cattle and other Goods worth	4	0	0	} Distresses for Tithes.
Richard Britton, for 1 l. 9 s. 3 d. a Gelding worth	3	6	8	
John Barrow, for 5 s. 1 d. an Heifer worth	1	10	0	
Thomas Barrow, for 1 l. 18 s. 6 d. two Cows worth	5	10	0	
Ellen Braithwaite, for 6 s. 7 d. a Cow and Calf worth	1	15	0	
Elizabeth Barrow, Widow, for 18 s. a Cow worth	3	10	0	
For Demands of 6 l. 10 s. 9 d.	Taken	19	11	8

All these Goods and Cattle were taken and sold by the Bayliffs, without producing any Warrant or Writ authorizing them either to levy or sell the same. ANNO 1679. Taken by Distress for Tithes,

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>William Whaley</i> , for 2 l. 2s. a Cow worth	4	0	0
<i>Stephen Sagar</i> , for 10s. Flannel worth	0	18	6
<i>Peter Shackleton</i> , for 1 l. 1s. a Cow worth	5	0	0
<i>William Hatton</i> , for 1. 0s. 8d. a Stack of Hay worth	1	10	0
<i>James Fletcher</i> , for 6s. 3d. Goods worth	1	5	0
	<hr/>		
For Demands of 4 l. 19s. 11d.	Taken	12	13 6

Thomas Leaper, of Copenwray, was prosecuted by James Greenwood Tithe-farmer, for eight Years Tithe, on the Statute for Treble Damages, and had Cattle and Corn taken from him to the Value of 41 l. 16 s. 4 d.

James Smith, of Coulton, was committed to Lancaster Castle by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, for a Demand of 1 l. 10 s. for Tithe, at the Suit of Henry Rowe, of Wigan, Tithe-farmer. Imprisonments.

Richard Yearwood, Gilbert Holt, and Thomas Barnsall, were committed to Lancaster Castle by Writs de Excommunicato capiendo, at the Suit of Edward Goodall, Vicar of Prescott, whose Demand upon all the three did not amount to 20 s. After their Commitment the Priest several Times directed the Goaler, both by Word of Mouth and Writing, to keep them under a close Confinement. The said Gilbert Holt died a Prisoner there about four Years after. Close Confinement. Death of G. Holt.

On the 31st of the Month called March this Year was a Meeting at Macclesfield in Cheshire, to which the Mayor and two other Justices came, and took what Names they pleased. After a short Time, the Meeting still continuing, they came again. At their first Coming they found James Harrison, of Bolton in Lancashire, preaching, for which they fined him 20 l. and at their coming again, he still preaching, they called that a second Offence, and fined him 40 l. which Convictions and Fines they certified to John Hartley, a Justice near Manchester in Lancashire, who issued his Warrant to the Constables of Bolton to levy the Fines. They made Distress of the said Harrison's Household Goods of about 40 l. Value, taking all they could find, not leaving so much as a Skillet to boil the Children's Milk in : But before they proceeded to any farther Seizure, an Appeal was entred on his Behalf to the Quarter Sessions, where J. Harrison twice convicted for once Preaching.

LANCA-
SHIRE.
1679.

Fines for
Meetings.

Feasting of
Justices and
others.

A Bayliff's
Sudden Death.

Distresses.

Imprisonments
on Writs de
Excom. Cap.

Distresses.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

where the Conviction was adjudged illegal, for that they had made two Offences of once Preaching. But though the Conviction was set aside, yet he could not obtain the Restitution of his Goods.

In the Month called *May*, *Richard Cubban*, for a Meeting at his House in *Bickerstaff*, was fined 20*l.* and *John Bispham* was also fined 20*l.* for preaching there. *Roger Harsnep* and *Richard Beesly*, for being at the same Meeting, were fined 8*s.* each. On the 9th of *November*, as *James Harrison* was preaching at a Meeting in his own House, the Constables came and pluckt him away. They caused him to be fined, and by a Warrant from *Thomas Laver* and *John Kenyon* Justices, made a Seizure of Leather and other Goods to the Value of 10*l.* 19*s.* *Phineas Pemberton*, for himself and Wife being at the said Meeting, had Goods taken from him to the Value of 4*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* In order to convict the Persons met at *Bolton*, the Justices, Informers, and Witnesses, with the Attendants, ate and drank in one Afternoon as much as cost 50*s.* which the Constable engaged to pay for. *Thomas Russel*, an Under-Bayliff, was so drunk, that he was found in the Street wallowing in his Vomit about three in the Morning, and some Time after died suddenly.

Many Persons in this County were fined this Year for Absence from the National Worship, and had their Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 9*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*

ANNO 1680. Taken this Year for Tithes from several Persons, Corn and other Things to the Value of 15*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*

Thomas Crosbie and *Joshua Crosbie* were taken by an Apparitor and a Bayliff, and committed to *Lancaster* Prison on a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*.

Matthew Read, of *Heighlon*, for a Meeting at his House, had taken from him two Oxen, an Heifer, and fifteen Loads of Corn, worth 20*l.* 10*s.* And *William Whaley*, of *Marsden*, for Preaching, suffered Distress of his Cattle to the Value of 49*l.* 1*s.*

ANNO 1681. *Henry Birtwistle* and *George Hayworth*, were imprisoned by a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, at the Suit of *John Duckworth*, Priest of *Hastington*, for small Tithes.

Also *Henry Wood* was sent to Prison, and detained about two Years, at the Suit of the Priest of *Bramble*, for a pretended Claim of ten Years Tithe, seven of which the Priest's Servants had long before taken for his Use.

We shall next insert the Copies of two Warrants, by the Former of which Goods were taken to the Value of 15*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* and by the Latter to the Amount of 25*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*

1. A Copy of the Warrant for distraining the Goods of *George Hargreaves*.

“ *Com. Lancaster.*

Warrant for
distraining the
Goods of G.
Hargreaves.

“ WHEREAS it appeareth unto us, as well by Witnesses upon
“ Oath, as by notorious Evidence and Circumstance of the Fact,
“ that upon the 16th Day of *October* last past, being *Sunday*, there was a
“ numerous Meeting or Conventicle, under Colour or Pretence of religious
“ Worship, in other Manner than according to the *Liturgy* or Practice of the
“ Church of *England*, at the House of *George Hargreaves*, in *Pendle* within
“ this County, Clothier, and by and with his Consent, at which said Meeting
“ or Conventicle were many more than five Persons above the Age of sixteen
“ Years, Subjects of this Realm, besides those of the Family, when and where
“ *George Hargreaves* aforesaid did wittingly and wilfully suffer *Isaac Ashton*, of
“ *Clitheroe*, to pray, preach or teach within his House, but did not read the
“ Book of Common-prayer, contrary to a late Act of Parliament intituled,
“ *An Act for preventing and suppressing seditious Meetings and Conventicles*, for
“ which Offence *George Hargreaves* aforesaid hath forfeited the Sum of 20*l.*
“ according to the Act aforesaid. These are therefore, in the Name of our
“ Sovereign Lord the King, strictly to charge and command you forthwith after
“ your

“ your Receipt hereof to demand of the said *George Hargreaves* the Sum of
 “ 20*l.* forfeited by him as aforesaid, and if he shall refuse to pay the same,
 “ you are forthwith to levy it upon his Goods and Chattels by Distress and
 “ Sale thereof, rendring to him the Overplus, if any be; and the Money
 “ so levied you are to pay unto us, or one of us, as the Act aforesaid doth
 “ direct: And you are not to fail of the Execution and Return hereof within
 “ ten Days, as you will answer the Contrary at your Perils. Dated the 15th
 “ Day of *November*, Anno Dom. 1681.

LANCA-
 SHIRE.
 1681.

“ NICHOLAS TOWNLY.

“ THOMAS BRADDYLL.

To the Constables, &c.

2. A Copy of a Warrant for Distress on *Isaac Ashton* and others.

“ *Burg. de Clitheroe in Com. Lancaster.*

“ FORASMUCH as we have this Day received a Certificate under
 “ the Hands and Seals of *Nicholas Townly* and *Thomas Braddyll* Esquires,
 “ two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County Palatine of *Lan-*
 “ *caster*, That whereas *Isaac Ashton*, of *Clitheroe* aforesaid, Distiller of Strong-
 “ Waters, stands convicted before them the said Justices, for that he, upon
 “ Sunday the 16th Day of *October* now last past, did take upon him to teach
 “ and preach in a Conventicle holden at the House of *George Hargreaves*, in
 “ the Forest or Chase of *Pendle* and County aforesaid, Clothier, contrary to
 “ the late Act of Parliament intituled, *An Act to prevent seditious Conventicles*,
 “ for which he hath forfeited the Sum of 20*l.* it being the first Offence of
 “ this Nature by him committed, for what appears before the said Justices.
 “ And whereas *John Fish*, of the same Town and County, Glazier, stands
 “ convicted before the said Justices for being present at the said Conventicle,
 “ whereby he hath forfeited the Sum of 10*s.* it being the second Time of his
 “ Conviction for an Offence of this Nature. And whereas also *John Spencer*
 “ of the same Town and County, Labourer, stands convicted before the said
 “ Justices only 5*s.* it being the first Offence of that Nature that hath appeared
 “ before the said Justices. And therefore they do impose the several Fines
 “ abovementioned, viz. upon *Isaac Ashton* 20*l.* upon *John Fish* 10*s.* and upon
 “ *John Spencer* 5*s.* according to the said Act of Parliament. These are there-
 “ fore in his Majesty's Name to will and require you, and every of you,
 “ immediately upon Receipt hereof to demand of them the said *Isaac Ashton*,
 “ *John Fish*, and *John Spencer*, these several Sums imposed upon them: And
 “ if they or any of them shall refuse to pay the same, that then you levy the
 “ said several Sums by Distress and Sale of the Goods of him or them so re-
 “ fusing, returning the Overplus if any shall remain, and you are to give an
 “ Account of your Proceedings herein to us, whereof fail not at your Peril.
 “ Given under our Hands and Seal of the Borough this 21st Day of *November*,
 “ Anno Dom. 1681.

“ WILLIAM APPLETON,

“ EDWARD ROBINSON,

“ Bayliffs of the said Borough.”

To the Constables of
 Clitheroe, &c.

ANNO 1682. *John Aspinall*, of *Cassell*, was committed to *Lancaster Castle*
 on the 5th of the Month called *April*, by Justices Warrant, grounded on a
Significavit out of the Ecclesiastical Court, at the Suit of the aforesaid *John*
Duckworth, Priest of *Hastington*, for Tithes.

Prosecutions
 for Tithes.

John Fell, *John Curwen*, *John Cowel*, *William Saltbouse*, *James Geldert*,
Thomas Fisher, and *William Towers*, after a Prosecution in the *Exchequer* for
 Tithes, at the Suit of *Mary Woodburn* Tithe-farmer, had Corn, Cattle, and
 other Goods taken from them by Sequestration, to the Value of 64*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*

LANCA-
SHIRE.
1682.

Distress for
Meetings.

Imprisonment
of R. Bar-
row.

Distress on
M. Fox.

Fines for
Meetings.

An hard
Hearted Pro-
secutor.

More Prosecu-
tions for
Tithes.

For Clerk's
Wages.

For Tithes.

For refusing to
Swear.

Also John Walker, Alice Bakebean, Christopher Widdow, and John Lees, for Demands of 10*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* for Tithes, suffered by Distress to the Amount of 27*l.* 7*s.*

Thomas Turbuck, of Sutton, for being at a religious Meeting, had his Bedding taken away to the Value of 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* Also William Holgate, for a Meeting at his House, suffered the Loss of his Household Goods worth 9*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* And for a Meeting held in November this Year, at the House of James Strettell in Manchester, Goods were taken from several Persons to the Amount of 29*l.* 18*s.*

ANNO 1683. On the 12th of the Month called January, Robert Barrow was taken preaching in a Meeting at Lancaster, and by the Mayor committed to Prison.

Margaret Fox, for suffering Meetings at her House in Swarthmore, was fined by the Name of Margaret Fell, Widow, and had taken from her, at one Time, Cattle worth

30*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*
40 0 0

And at another Time, to the Value of

70 0 0

When Thomas Lower, on her Behalf, demanded a Copy of the Warrant in order to an Appeal, the Officers said, *They durst not give it, the Justices having charged them to the contrary.* So they sold her Cattle, and rendred no Account thereof. Taken also this Year from Robert Saltbouse and others, for Fines for Meeting, Goods worth 7*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*

John Leigh and William Wilde were prosecuted at the Suit of William Richardson Tithe-farmer, and committed to Prison by Justices Warrant, grounded on a Significavit from the Ecclesiastical Court. The Prosecutor was so rigid, that he got the Goaler bound in 40*l.* Penalty not to suffer them to come down to the Gate of the Castle. He also got a Warrant and took Goods worth 22*s.* for his Charges of carrying them to Prison.

John Moon, of Carhouse near Garstang, Husbandman, was prosecuted at the Suit of Thomas Butler of Kirklands, for Tithes, and on the 21st of the Month called August, at Lancaster Assizes had a Verdict given against him for 4*l.* 7*s.* on the Statute for treble Damages amounting to 13*l.* 1*s.* for which the Bayliff took, by an Execution, his Corn in the Barn and on his Ground, with all his Household Goods, not leaving him a Bed to lie on, the Whole amounting to 35*l.*

In November, Alice Bakebean was prosecuted in Hornby Court, at the Suit of Anthony Proctor, Priest of Arch-holm, and, for 25*s.* demanded for Tithes, had her Goods distrained to the Value of 5*l.*

ANNO 1684. Alice Bakebean was prosecuted by John Colts Parish-Clerk, for 4*d.* per Annum, for his Wages for five Years, and had her Goods taken away to the Value of 10*s.*

Robert Withers was prosecuted on the Statute of treble Damages for Tithes, at the Suit of James Greenwood, of Bolton, Tithe-farmer; the Tithe proved was 7*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* for the treble of which, being 22*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* he had taken from him five Beasts worth 27*l.* 15*s.* He had also taken from him on another Prosecution for 4*l.* 18*s.* Tithe, Goods worth 20*l.* Also Christopher Duckworth, for Tithe of 4*l.* Value, had his Goods taken away to the Value of 18*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* And Michael Crabtree and William Crabtree, for a Demand of 1*s.* 3*d.* for Tithe, had Pewter and wearing Apparel taken away to the Value of 2*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

John Vipon, John Ecroyd, Roger Hartly, John Hardman, Stephen Sagar, William Kippax, Edmund Pilling, Peter Shackleton, Anne Whaley, James Ruston, John Hargreaves, and James Whitaker, were committed to Prison on Writs de Excommunicato capiendo for refusing to answer upon Oath, when prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes, at the Suit of Edmund Ashton, of Whaley, Impropiator.

In this Year Corn was taken out of the Field for Tithes from several Persons, to the Amount of 22*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*

In

In this and the preceding Year, the Distresses made on the Conventicle Act, and otherwise, for religious Meetings, amounted to 304*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* beside the several particular Cases herein after mentioned, viz. On the 5th of October, at the Interment of the Wife of Henry Tomlinson, John Hayton spake a few Words by Way of Exhortation to the People; certain Informers, appointed by Justice Langworth to be there, brought him to the Justice, who sent him to the House of Correction, and also fined him 20*l.* for Preaching, and the Owners of the Burying-ground 20*l.* for the Place; for which, and other Fines imposed for being at the said Burial, Goods were taken by Distress to the Amount of 60*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* One of the Persons distrained on at that Time was Henry Tomlinson, who, when his Cattle were exposed to Sale in the Market, publickly acknowledged them to be his, and was thought thereby to hinder their Sale. For this the aforesaid Justice committed the said Henry to Prison. On the 9th of the same Month John Townson, for a Meeting at his House, suffered Distress of his Cattle to the Value of 36*l.* 10*s.* And Henry Houlden, Thomas Tomlinson, and Henry Tomlinson, had their Goods taken away, for being at that Meeting, to the Amount of 5*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* About the same Time the said Thomas Tomlinson, for a Meeting at his House, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 9*l.* 12*s.*

LANCASHIRE.
1684.

Distresses for Meeting.

Distresses for a Funeral.

Distresses for Meetings.

At the Summer Assizes this Year, Richard Cubban, Godfrey Alberton, John Minshall, William Crowdfon, John Bisham, Daniel Bisham, Richard Busby, Alexander Roylance, James Frodsham, Thomas Hiccock, William Griffith, Gilbert Potter, Eleanor Billings, Henry Foster, Joseph Coppuck, Joshua Grosbie, and Henry Walton, then Prisoners for being at a Meeting, having been indicted at the Quarter Sessions for a Riot, were brought to Trial before Judge Jefferies, who fined them 20*l.* a piece: They were recommitted to Prison, where the said Henry Foster ended his Days on the 18th of November.

Proceedings at the Assizes.

Death of H. Foster.

In September, Daniel Abraham, James Goddard, and Leonard Bell, were sent to Goal for Absence from the National Worship. The two Former continued there about a Month, and the Other longer. In the same Month William Rawlinson, Abraham Ratcliffson, Elizabeth Saunders, Mary Benson, Henry Stones, and Edward Robinson, were committed to Prison, and in the next Month Barbara Satterthwait, and Isabel Forest. In this Year also, Nathanael Disborow, John Barnes, Gilbert Patter, Matthias Foster, John Dunbabin, John Gibson, John Chorley, Samuel Dunbabin, Susan Wright, Mary Cocker, Mary Southworth, Patience Sixsmith, Hugh Crosby, Richard Holcroft, Esther Holcroft, Elizabeth Gibson, Elizabeth Barnes, Martha Coombs, Robert Burton, Thomas Keckwick, Daniel Keckwick, Gerge Birch, John Barrow, Savage Mason, and Matthew Mason, having been taken in religious Meetings at the House of James Wright in Warrington, were committed to Prison, where some of them were detained ten Months.

Imprisonment for Absence from the National Worship, and for Meetings.

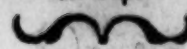
The pious Disposition, and sweet Frame of Mind wherein these Christian Sufferers endured their Confinement, is excellently expressed by one of them, viz. Mary Southworth, a religious Maiden, afterward married to Henry Molineux, in the following Poem, which we recommend to our Readers Perusal, viz.

MEDITATIONS concerning our Imprisonment, only for Conscience-sake, 1684, in Lancaster Castle.

THO' the Eternal Wisdom, Sion's King,
Be pleas'd to try his Babes by Suffering;
Tho' some departing from the Sinners Way,
And walking Sion-ward become a Prey;
Yea, though through Tribulation Israel must
Enter the promis'd Land, yet Heaven is just;
And tenderly supports his patient Ones,
Altho' he chastens his beloved Sons:

And

LANCA-
SHIRE.
1684.



Conventicle

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And tho' in Prisons outwardly they be
Confin'd, the Son of Love doth set them free,
And leads in verdant Plains of Liberty;
The fresh fat Valleys where sweet *Shiloh* flows,
Upon whose fertile Banks the Lilly grows;
Where though he by some Exercises prove,
He solaceth with Flagons of his Love.
Then why should any murmur? *Jesus* thus
Extended signal Favours unto us.
Here are we with the hidden Manna fed,
Tho' with Transgressors we be numbred:
Here can we Prospects from our Tow'r survey
With much more innocent Delight than they
That range at large; yea here we may descry
The pleasant Path, hid from the Vult'rous Eye.
Wherein the Righteous follow Christ their King
And tender Shepherd, to the living Spring
Of Joy, and to his Name high Praises sing.
Nor can the proudest Walls (tho' ne'er so high
The Monuments of grave Antiquity)
Be terrible to spotless Innocence,
That knows the Rock of Ages a Defence.
Tho' some be from their Families remov'd,
Here *Mary's* Choice may better be improv'd.
And Christ takes Care of his, altho' they sit
As unconcern'd, weeping at *Jesus* Feet.
He'll be a Father to the Family
Of such as for his Name in Prison lie,
And fill their Hearts with everlasting Joy.
These rugged Walls less grievous are to me,
Than those bedeckt with curious Arras be;
T' a guilty Conscience, to a wounded Heart,
A Palace cannot palliate that Smart:
Tho' drunk with Pleasure, dull with Opiates,
Some seem, as senseless of their sad Estates,
Till on their dying Beds Conscience awakes.
But tho' the Righteous be in Bonds confin'd,
They inwardly sweet Satisfaction find,
Neither can stately Roofs, Gates, Bars, nor all
The Art of Man suppress the Cries and Call,
Or Supplication, or the poorest Sigh,
Of *Israel's* Seed, for his Redeemer's nigh,
Who will regard the Cries, and hear the Groans
Of his afflicted tribulated Ones;
And will in his appointed Time arise
Utterly to confound his Enemies:
Altho' by them he for a Season prove
His Children dear, he'll yet in Time remove
The Scourge, and cast the chastning Rod aside,
When *Israel's* Faith and Patience he hath try'd.
Now, though some rage because we cannot bow
Unto their vain Traditions, since we know
The blessed Truth, which hath engag'd to give,
Our Hearts to him, in whom alone we live.
Yea, tho' for this some fret, and storm and rage,
And study to afflict God's Heritage:
Their Wrath's restrain'd by one, that if he please
Can curb the furious, rolling, raging Seas,

As in a Moment, and upon the Wave
Teach his to walk, and by his Presence save
From sinking, as of old, his Arm's the same,
Eternal Praises to his holy Name.
He is our Shield, our Sun that penetrates
Our closest Rooms, and sweetly consoles
Our waiting Souls, and with his quickning Ray
Changes black Nights of Sorrow into joyful Day.
So that 'tis not the Terrors of the Night,
Nor Darts that fly by Day, that can affright
The righteous Souls, who walk in holy Fear;
They know their Captain of Salvation's near,
The blessed Prince of Peace, their Joy, their King,
The only Fountain whence true saving Comforts spring.

Sixth Month 1684.

Such pious Meditations as these indicated a Freedom of Spirit, not to be restrained by outward Bondage, and Bodily Confinement.

On the 19th of the Month called *January*, *James Ratcliff*, *Nicholas Rawthorne*, *John Rawthorne*, *John Hargreaves*, *Alice Hargreaves*, *Abraham Hayworth*, *Richard Matber*, *William Jackson*, *Henry Crook*, and *Henry Hargreaves*, were in Prison for meeting together. A few Days after, they were indicted at *Manchester Sessions*, and recommitted to Prison. About the same Time *Francis Flemming* was sent to Prison for Absence from his Parish Church, so called. In this Year also *William Satterthwait* and *Edward Satterthwaite* were sent to Prison by a Commission of Rebellion, for refusing to answer upon Oath in the Trial of a Title to an Estate. And *Thomas Skirrow* was imprisoned for refusing to answer upon Oath in the Court of *Exchequer*. Some Time before this, two bold Informers came to the House of *Abraham Hayworth* of *Rosindale*, when the Meeting there was breaking up: They went and made Information that *James Ratcliff* preached there, who was not at that Meeting; however the Justices upon this Evidence fined him 20*l.* for which the Officers broke open five Doors, and took away twelve Kine and an Horse worth 39*l.* *Jonatban Rigby*, of *Blackrod*, for a Fine of 20*l.* had taken from him four Cows, an Horse, Hay, and Household Goods, worth 27*l.* *John Rostbwait* a Cow worth 2*l.* 15*s.* and *Alice Ratcliff*, her Bedding, Pewter, &c. worth 15*s.* Great Numbers were fined for absenting themselves from the National Worship, so that the Sums taken by Distress for that Cause amounted to 118*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* And for the same Cause *Daniel Abraham* and his Wife, and *Margaret Fox*, were Prisoners at *Lancaster* about sixteen Days, and *Leonard Fell* about two Months.

ANNO 1685. *Richard Britton*, *George Barrow*, *John Gurnall*, *Miles Birkett*, and *Jennet Dixon*, were prosecuted in the *Exchequer* for Tithes, at the Suit of *Thomas Preston*, of *Holcar*, Esq; and by a false Return of *Non est Inventus* (though they were so far from absconding, that they offered themselves to the Bayliffs) a Sequestration was obtained against them, by which their Cattle and Goods were carried away to the Value of 82*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

Henry Mitchel was sent to Prison by Justice's Warrant, on a *Significavit* from the Ecclesiastical Court; and *George Hayworth* and *Henry Birtwistle* were committed by Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*, at the Suit of Sir *Edmund Ashton* Impropiator. *John Backhouse* was prosecuted on the Statute for treble Damages, and for 5*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* Tithe, had Cattle taken from him worth 21*l.* And *Richard Lancaster*, for 6*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* demanded, suffered by Distress the Loss of Cattle to the Value of 26*l.* Several others had Corn and Cattle taken away, for Tithes, to the Amount of 9*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*

William Atkinson and *Nathan Kenerdy*, for nine Weeks Absence from the National Worship, had Goods taken away from them to the Value of 3*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* And *Richard Johnson*, *Richard Propbet*, and *John Fletcher*, were

Imprisonments
for Meeting.

Indictment at
Sessions.

False Informa-
tions.

Exchequer
Prosecutions.

Ecclesiastical
Process.

LANCA-
SHIRE.
1685.

Treble
Damages.

Imprisonments
on Writs de
Excom. Cap.

Tithes.

sent to Prison from a Meeting at *Hartshaw*, but after three Months Confinement were released at the Summer Assizes this Year, when most of the other Prisoners in this County were also discharged by Virtue of King *James's* Proclamation for a general Pardon.

ANNO 1686. Taken from *Mary Simpson*, of *Cartmell*, by a Prosecution for treble Damages for Tithe, Goods worth 11*l.* Taken also this Year, for Tithe of Corn in kind, to the Value of 44*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*

ANNO 1687. In the Month called *October*, *Richard Hargreaves*, *John Sagar*, *John Hudson*, *Roger Hartley*, *Nicholas Holgate*, *Jeffery Shackerly*, *John Horabin*, *Robert Atkinson*, *George Birch*, and *Peter Barnes*, were committed to Prison on Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*, at the Suit of Sir *Edmund Ashton* Impropiator, for Tithes.

ANNO 1689. Taken from sundry Persons this Year, out of the Fields for Tithes, Corn, &c. to the Amount of 79*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*

ANNO 1690. The Tithe of Corn taken in kind this Year from the People called *Quakers* in this County, amounted to 134*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*

We now proceed to the Sufferings of this People in *Leicestershire*.

C H A P. XXIII.

LEICES-
TER-
SHIRE.
1652.

LEICESTERSHIRE, and RUTLAND.

ANNO 1652.

Sufferings of
E. Muggle-
ston,

and C. Lewis.

Several Impri-
sonments.

ONE of the first Sufferers in this County was *Edward Muggleston*, an ancient Man of *Swanington*, who was twice obliged to appear at *London*, ninety Miles from his Dwelling, before a Committee of Parliament appointed to enquire into the State of such Preachers as had been plundered during the Civil Wars: While he was attending on them, at that Distance, a Seizure was made of his Goods at Home to the Value of 8*l.* 10*s.* for a Claim of 2*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* for Tithes. In the same Year *Christopher Lewis*, of *Harby*, was cited before a Justice by the Priest of that Parish (who had before taken out of his Fields what Corn he pleased) for 18*s.* 2*d.* pretended to be yet due for Tithe: The Justice granted a Warrant, by which the Officers took from him a Cow worth 3*l.* 10*s.*

ANNO 1653. *Richard Farmer*, of *Twycroft*, after the Parish Priest had ended his Sermon there, attempted to read a Paper of Christian Exhortation to the People; for which Office of Love he was committed to Prison, and lay there till the next Assizes, where several of the principal Inhabitants certifying that he had not disturbed them in their Worship, he was set at Liberty, without any Notice taken of the Injustice done him. In the same Year *William Simpson*, for proposing a Question to the Priest of *Brampton*, after his Sermon, was sent to the House of Correction at *Leicester*, and detained there five Weeks. About the same Time *Grace Swan* and *Anne Juxon*, after the publick Worship was ended at *Leicester*, where the said *Anne* would have read a Paper of Christian Advice to the People, were both confined in the Town-hall some Hours, and then *Anne* was sent to *Leicester Goal*, where she lay about five Weeks in a very cold Winter.

ANNO

ANNO 1654. In the Month of September, William Dewsberry was imprisoned at Leicester, but released again the next Day. On the 24th of December, John Whitehead was also put into Prison there, but discharged two Days after. On the 25th of the same, John Carr was committed to the Dungeon there, but set at Liberty again at the next Sessions. The Imprisonment of these Men was merely arbitrary, no Breach of any Law being charged against them; but their preaching to the People was very displeasing to the established Teachers of those Times, who monopolized that Office, purely for the Sake of the Profits annexed to it by Law. About this Time also, John Boyer and Thomas Cave, having spread some religious Books at Leicester, were imprisoned by the Mayor's Order: At the next Sessions they were discharged: But though it appeared that the Mayor had taken away from them and others of their Friends about 500 Sheets of printed Books, they could not obtain the Restitution of them, nor any Recompence for that illegal Seizure of their Property.

LEICESTER-SHIRE, &c. 1654.

Several Imprisonments.

ANNO 1656. Edward Muggleston, after a Prosecution in the * Exchequer for Tithes, was committed to Prison at Leicester. While he lay there his Son was prosecuted for the same Tithe, though known to be but a Servant to his Father.

E. Muggleston imprisoned.

ANNO 1658. Zachary Gilby, of Thistleton, was imprisoned in Oakham Goal by an Attachment out of the Exchequer: He was confined there about sixteen Weeks amongst Felons in a cold nasty Place. John Riddish was also imprisoned there, on an Attachment, about the same Time, for Tithe of ten Groats Value, he being a poor labouring Man, and having a Wife and five small Children: The Woman in her Distress applied to the Priest his Prosecutor to intercede for his Liberty, and took one of her little Children with her, judging that might be a Means to move his Compassion: But the Priest, void of Pity, thrust them out of Doors, and churlishly told her, *She might get her Husband out again how she could.*

Imprisonments for Tithes.

ANNO 1659. For refusing to pay the usual Rates made for the Repairing of the Steeple-houses, Edward Muggleston, for a Demand of 6s. 8d. had Goods taken from him worth 1l. 3s. And Thomas Orton and his Son, for a Claim of 1l. 0s. 4d. suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 2l. 13s. 4d.

Distress for Steeple-house Rates.

Matthew Radkin, because his Conscience restrained him from taking an Oath, was fined, and had his Goods taken away to the Value of 1l. 3s. 6d.

For not Swearing.

ANNO 1660. The Sufferings of this People in the present Year are well expressed in

“ A Copy of a Letter written from Leicester Goal, dated the 20th of the Twelfth Month 1660.

“ *Friends,* I lieth upon us to give an Account of our Sufferings, we being in Number twenty five, which are imprisoned because we cannot Swear, we expecting that more will be brought to Prison. We be under the Oppression of a cruel Goaler, who refuseth to let us have necessary Provision brought to us, and one who is a Friend, which we have employed for that Purpose, when she hath made Provision ready for us, and brought it to the Door, the Goaler hath several Times turned it back with cruel threatening Words, saying, *He would break her Neck if he took her coming in at the Door.* And many of us, being very poor Men in the Outward, scarce able to provide for our Families, when at Liberty, and some of us being fifteen or sixteen Miles from our outward Beings, and so unable to buy ourselves Provisions at the Goaler's excessive Rates. Some of us have been imprisoned five Weeks: One, his Wife being near the Time of her Delivery of Child, his Friends

A Copy of a Letter from Leicester.

* The Priest, who prosecuted Edward Muggleston, among other extravagant Charges, swore that Edward struck him, and that he durst not go to gather his Dues for fear of him. In which he exposed his Malice, and was believed by no Body.

LEICESTER-
SHIRE,
&c.
1660.

“ Friends desiring but a short Time for him to go and speak to his Wife, his Brother offering to stay in his Room the Time, was denied : Another was brought to Prison from his Wife, she being delivered of a Child but two Days before. And some of our Friends, being brought to Prison, had their Coats taken off their Backs by the Soldiers, and not restored again : Another Friend's Wife being very weak, and not likely to continue long, she desiring much to see her Husband, who desired upon Security, so much Liberty of the Goaler to go and see her, but he denied it ; It lying much upon the Friend to go and see his Wife in that Condition, he acquainted one of the Commissioners with it, who sent his Warrant to the Goaler to set the Friend at Liberty, and that should be his Discharge, but the Goaler kept the Warrant and refused to let him go, except he would pay him a Mark Fees. We are forced to hire Rooms at excessive Rates, by reason that we cannot have a free Prison to hold us, so as that we might lie down, there being so many Debtors and Felons in it. Three of the Friends who are imprisoned are *Northamptonshire* Men : One, whose Name is *William Vincent*, who had been imprisoned at *Northampton* near fourteen Months, it being but two Weeks after he was put out, but he was brought to Prison here, he being a Man in much bodily Weakness, with many running Sores upon him, and by outward Appearance is not likely to continue long, his Wife also being in the Town, and bringing him some warm Food, which she had provided for him, was turned back, and not suffered to bring it him. Likewise the Goaler denies to let him have a Candle at his own Charge, whereby he might dress his Sores, it being a dark Place, where he is locked up by Daylight ; likewise not suffering a few Boards, which were their own, to hold the Straw up, but did take them from them.

“ Subscribed by

<i>Edward Muggleston</i>	<i>Robert Bakewell</i>	<i>Robert Day</i>
<i>John Evatt</i>	<i>William Perkins</i>	<i>Richard Farmer</i>
<i>John Elliott</i>	<i>Peter Hincks</i>	<i>Roger Sturgis</i>
<i>Richard Read</i>	<i>Samuel Ward</i>	<i>Thomas Falkner</i>
<i>George Power</i>	<i>Robert Cliffe</i>	<i>William Gregory</i>
<i>Thomas Orton</i>	<i>John Swann</i>	<i>William Horton</i>
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>William Vincent</i>	<i>William Tomson</i>
<i>Thomas Marshall</i>	<i>William Line</i>	
<i>Robert Pimm</i>	<i>George Almon</i>	

Many Imprisonments for not Swearing.

ANNO 1661. *Richard Poole* was taken at a religious Meeting, and sent to Prison, where he lay several Months. On the 23d of September this Year, *Thomas Taylor*, going towards *Swanington*, was met by a Company of Soldiers, who passing simply by them, without pulling off his Hat, some of them cried out, *A Fanatick*, and rode after him, brought him back, kept him Prisoner that Night, and next Day hurried him to and fro, till at length two Country Justices committed him to *Leicester* Goal for refusing the Oath of Allegiance : For which Cause also *William Dracutt*, *Daniel Smith*, *Robert Day*, *Robert Cliffe*, *John Doubleday*, *Nicholas Juxon*, *Humphry Woolrich*, *George Brown*, *Thomas Palmer*, *Thomas Goodman*, and *James Smith*, were this Year committed to Prison. On the 4th of November, *Edward Muggleston* the Elder, after two or three Weeks Sickness, died a Prisoner, having been under close Confinement about five Years. He laid down his Life in sweet Peace with the Lord, to the Testimony of whose Truth he had been faithful and obedient.

Death of E. Muggleston.

Some taken, visiting the Sick.

On the 30th of December, *Roger Sturgis* and *Alice* his Wife, with four other Friends, went to visit *William Fellows*, then sick in Bed, and as they sat by him, a Constable, with Soldiers and others armed with Swords and Staves, came in, dragged them out of the House, kept them Prisoners all Night at

an Alehouse, and next Day carried them seven Miles to a Justice's House, who, hearing the Case, that they were only visiting the Sick, set them at Liberty, except one Woman, whom he ordered the Officers to carry to the High Constable: Three of her Friends went with her, and the High Constable, whose Name was *James Oliver*, sent them all to *Leicester Goal* by a *Mittimus*, so apparently illegal, and out of Form, that the Goaler refused to receive them. Thus after much ill Usage, and hurrying to and fro several Days, they were set at Liberty.

LEICES-
TER-
SHIRE,
&c.
1661.

Illegal Impri-
sonments.

About this Time *John Boyer*, of *Leicester*, for no other Cause that he knew of, but that he did not pull off his Hat to the Earl of *Gray*, was beaten by one of his Servants with a great Cudgel about the Head, till he was very bloody, and then struck down among the Willows into the Water, and there left for dead. After some Time, recovering a little, he got Home with much Difficulty, but from that Time quite lost his Eyesight, and shortly died of the Bruises he had received.

Cruel Beating
of J. Boyer.

His Death.

ANNO 1662. In this Year *John Swann*, *William Smith* the Elder, *William Smith* the Younger, and *William Perkins*, were imprisoned in the County Goal at *Leicester* for Tithes. In the same Year *John Edinborough* and *Robert Day*, for 14d. demanded for Steeple-house-Rates, had Goods taken from them worth 12s. *Edward Marriott*, for the same Cause, also suffered Distress of his Goods.

Tithes and
Steeple-house
Rates.

William Bramston was imprisoned five Weeks for refusing to Swear, and for the same Cause was fined 5l.

Imprisonment
for not Swear-
ing.

In the Month called *August*, at *Leicester Affizes*, *Richard Church*, *George Barford*, *William Caunt*, *Richard Read*, and others, were sent to Prison for refusing to Swear.

On the 2d of *September*, the Lord *Behmen*, alias *Swords*, having received Information of an intended Meeting at *Swanington*, came thither with armed Men, before the Meeting was begun; and caused nine Persons there to be apprehended and secured that Night, and next Day sent them to Goal by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

For Meeting.

" To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal for the County of Leicester.

" WHEREAS upon Complaint made, that several Quakers and dis-
" affected Persons were to meet at *Swanington*, at an unreasonable
" Time, to the Disturbance of his Majesty's good Subjects, and contrary to
" an Act in that Case provided: These are therefore to command you in
" his Majesty's Name to receive into your said Goal, and there safe to keep
" the Bodies of the Persons underwritten, until such Time as they be thence
" delivered by due Course of Law. Hereof fail not at your utmost Peril.
" Given under my Hand and Seal the 3d of *September* 1662.

Mittimus of
9 Persons to
Leicester
Goal.

" T. SWORDS.

" *George Fox* *Susanna Frith* *Edward Muggleston*
" *William Smith* *Joane Brookesby* *Thomas Fowkes*
" *Margaret Bayly* *Henry Walker* *Joane Roe.*"

Upon this *Mittimus* they were kept in Prison about a Month till the Sessions, when no sufficient Cause appearing to justify their Confinement, they were set at Liberty.

At the same Time also *Leonard Fell*, *Samuel Hooton*, and *William Sly*, were Prisoners in the same Goal: Many others were taken out of their religious Meetings and committed to Prison, viz. *Thomas Allen*, *John Allen*, *William Timson*, *John Carter*, *John Warren*, *John Trester*, *William Line*, *William Green*, *Samuel Wilson*, *Obadiab Wilkins*, *Nicholas Pawley*, *Thomas Palmer*, *Joane Wilkins*, *Anne Line*, *Mary Wood*, *Anne Cane*, *Anne Smith*, and *Sarah Lea*: Some of these

Other Pri-
soners.

LEICESTER-
SHIRE,
&c.
1662.

LEICESTER-SHIRE, &c. 1662.	were detained in Prison seven Weeks, and others three Months. Several others, for their Constancy in assembling together, were fined, and for Non-payment, both suffered Imprisonment and Distress of Goods, of which Number were,																																																																																																																
	<table><tr><th></th><th colspan="3">Fines.</th><th></th><th colspan="3">Sums levied.</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>l.</th><th>s.</th><th>d.</th><th></th><th>l.</th><th>s.</th><th>d.</th></tr><tr><td>Imprisonment and Distresses.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Samuel Hooton, who for</td><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>suffered Distress of Goods worth</td><td>11</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>William Marshall,</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>8</td><td></td><td>6</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Richard Leake,</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>8</td><td></td><td>6</td><td>10</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Matthew Rudkin,</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td></td><td>8</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Nicholas Juxon,</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>8</td><td></td><td>4</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Edward Muggleston,</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td></td><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td colspan="3"><hr/></td><td></td><td colspan="3"><hr/></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>For</td><td>19</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>Taken</td><td>40</td><td>10</td><td>0</td></tr></table>		Fines.				Sums levied.				l.	s.	d.		l.	s.	d.	Imprisonment and Distresses.				Samuel Hooton, who for	5	0	0	suffered Distress of Goods worth	11	0	0					William Marshall,	3	6	8		6	0	0					Richard Leake,	3	6	8		6	10	0					Matthew Rudkin,	2	0	0		8	0	0					Nicholas Juxon,	3	6	8		4	0	0					Edward Muggleston,	2	0	0		5	0	0						<hr/>				<hr/>							For	19	0	0	Taken	40	10	0
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John Skilcock, for Meeting, had a Cow taken from him worth 4*l*.
 Imprisonments. ANNO 1663. *Richard Jarvis*, a poor labouring Man, suffered twelve Weeks Imprisonment for Tithes of small Value. And *Robert Day* of *Clawson*, who had been in Prison a considerable Time, was this Year discharged.

Unhealthy Confinement. *Elizabeth Doubleday*, taken at a Meeting at *Silby*, was sent to Prison at *Leicester*, where she was confined among Felons in a very unhealthy Manner, seventeen Women being shut up in one Room but four Yards long, and two Yards broad.

For refusing to Swear. *Thomas Saunderson* was fined for refusing to Swear, and had his Goods taken away to the Value of 1*l*. 10*s*. Also *Richard Church*, after five Weeks Imprisonment for a Fine of five Marks for refusing to take an Oath, had two Cows taken from him worth 5*l*. 10*s*.

Imprisonments for several Causes. ANNO 1664. In this Year *Nathanael Newton*, *Henry Sidons*, *William Medcalf*, *Francis Allen*, *John Palmer*, *William Bodycoat*, and *William Sibly*, having been taken at a Meeting, were committed to Prison. *John Evans*, of *Wigston*, was also imprisoned for refusing to pay Tithes: He was cruelly used, being sometimes close shut up in a filthy stinking Dungeon, and at other Times in a Room over a Common *Jakes* or House of Office. He continued in Prison about eighteen Months.

ANNO 1666. Taken this Year by Distress for Tithes,									
		Demand.			Sums taken				
		l.	s.	d.			l.	s.	d.
Distresses for Tithes.	From <i>Thomas Fellows</i> , for	1	12	0	Goods worth	12	0	0	
	<i>Roger Sturgis</i> ,	0	12	0		5	0	0	
	<i>Richard Church</i> ,	1	6	0		3	0	0	
		<hr/>				<hr/>			
For		3	10	0	Taken		20	0	0

Extent. The said *Thomas Fellows* and *Roger Sturgis*, had also an Extent taken out to seize their Land, and were committed to Prison, *Robert* being an infirm old Man, and almost blind.

Other Sufferings. *Francis Child*, of *Harborough*, for being present at religious Meetings, was fined 20*l*. and sent to Prison for Non-payment.

William Sly, *William Hooton*, *William Wells*, *Thomas Herrick*, *John Evans*, *Francis Brawton*, and *Samuel Pawley*, being taken at a Meeting and carried before a Justice of the Peace, he tendered them the Oaths, and committed them to Prison.

Excessive Spoil. ANNO 1667. From *Edward Hallum*, of the Vale of *Bevoir*, the Claimers of Tithe took one Fifth of his Barley, and one Sixth of his Beans: From *John Doubleday* they took whole Fields of his Corn: And from *John Evans* twice as much as the Tithe came to.

Long Imprisonment for Tithes. *William Smith*, of *Croxton*, being subpoena'd into the *Exchequer* for Tithes of 6*s*. Value, appeared there in Person, but not answering in Form by an Attorney, nor upon Oath, the Process went on, and at his Return Home he

was

was taken from his Wife and seven Children, and committed to Prison, where he lay above six Years, to the exceeding great Oppression of himself and Family, he being poor. Robert Day was also imprisoned on an *Exchequer* Process for Tithes. William Willows and Thomas Walker, of Rodly, the Former for a Demand of 20s. and the Latter for 4d. for Tithes, were subpoena'd into the *Exchequer*, where they personally appeared, but not answering upon Oath, were sent to Prison for Contempt, as if they had not appeared. Richard Gibson was also committed to Prison, and detained there several Years, at the Suit of Matthew Honeywood, Dean of Lincoln.

On the 22d of the Month called March, a religious Meeting was held at Syson, to which an Officer with Soldiers, and many rude People, came, and without any Warrant dragged the Assembly out of their Meeting-place. They took William Horton and set him in the Stocks: After which they drew him, with his Head on the Ground, over a Stone Bridge, and then threw him into a Wheelbarrow, to the bruising of his Body: Two Shepherds, whom they charged to assist them, refused, saying, *They knew not but the Man might die by the Abuses given him, and that they might come into Trouble as accessory to his Death.* After this they tied him on Horseback, some crying, *Throw him into the Mill-pond,* and others, *Stick a Knife in him.* As they were carrying him to Justice Babington's, they were informed that he was not at Home, wherefore they brought their Prisoner tied on the Horse to Syson again, to an Alehouse, where they laid him on the Floor, and made their Sport of him. At length they took him before Justice Patchin, a Magistrate of Clemency and Moderation, who ordered him, and the rest of his Friends informed against, to appear at the next Monthly Meeting of the Justices; they accordingly appeared at the Time and Place appointed, but the Justices were not there, only their Clerks, so that no Process was made against them. Nevertheless Justice Babington afterward sent for several of them, and fined some of them 30s. and others 40s. for refusing to Swear.

ANNO 1668. On the 19th of the Month called April, Matthew Whatoff, Thomas Burbridge, Richard Frank, William Pollard, John Whatoff, and William Fawkes, taken at a Meeting, were fined five Marks each. In this Year also, Patrick Levingston, a Scotchman, taken out of a Meeting at Syson, was committed to the County Bridewell at Leicester for six Months. John Wilford, Thomas Hanson, Constance Blanchly, and Anne Ford, were taken at a Meeting in Harby, and committed to Prison. John Wilford was again imprisoned fourteen Days for a Meeting at his House: This was done by the Procurement of the Priest of Nether-Broughton, who was heard to say, that Wilford would soon be imprisoned the third Time, and then banished. And to a Person who asked him, *What must become of the poor Man's Wife and Children?* the hard-hearted Priest replied, *Let them all perish together.*

Michael Woodcock, of Gilmourn, was taken from his Wife and Children, and imprisoned upwards of three Years, though while he was in Prison the Tithe-mongers took away his Corn off the Land in what Quantities they pleased, from some Fields half the Crop, and from others the Whole.

ANNO 1670. On the 25th of the Month called January, a Meeting was held for Church-Affairs, and to relieve the Necessities of the Poor, at the House of John Penford of Kirby-Mucklow. Thither came the Informers, and found them consulting together about Works of Charity. John Penford desired them to look into the Books of Account, then lying open, that so they might not misrepresent the Cause of their Meeting. The Informers went and got a Warrant to bring John Penford, William Wells, John Carr, and Richard Woodland, before the Justices at Market-Bosworth. They appeared accordingly, and were charged with being at a seditious Conventicle; they desired that the Informers might give in their Depositions in their Hearing, but the Justices would not grant it; for indeed they were so partially disposed, that one of them, the Lord Beaumont, told John Penford, whom he knew to have a considerable Estate, that *he would bring him to Poverty.* They fined John Penford 20l.

LEICESTER-SHIRE, &c. 1667.

Barbarous Abuse of W. Horton.

Fines for not Swearing.

Sufferings for Meeting.

Imprisonments.

Prosecutions for a Meeting about Church-Affairs.

Threats of Lord Beaumont.

LEICESTER-
TER-
SHIRE,
&c.
1670.

Arbitrary
Proceedings.

A moving
Case of J.
Wilford, a
poor Man.

Distresses for
Meetings.

Release of
Prisoners.
J. Penford
imprisoned by
a Writ de
Excom. Cap.

Many impi-
sonments.

for his House, and 10*l.* for a Preacher though no Preacher was there; they also fined several others 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* each, so that the whole amounted to 50*l.* Penford and Woodland appealed to the Quarter Sessions, and retained Council to plead their Cause there: But so arbitrary were the Justices, that they refused to try the Appeal, unless the Appellants would first take the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, which they refusing to do, the Court awarded treble Damages against the Plaintiffs, as if they had been cast upon Trial, though it was apparent, that they had both Law and Equity on their Side.

In this Year many were fined for their religious Meetings by the Conventicle Act, and had their Goods taken away by Distress to the Amount of 107*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* Among these was John Wilford, who was fined 20*l.* for Preaching. When the Officers came to seize what he had, for he was very poor, they heard his Children crying, *Father, will they take the Loaf?* This moved them to Compassion, insomuch that they trembled and wept, and departed for that Time: But shortly after returned and took away his Cow, the only One he had, by which the poor Children were deprived of Milk, though not of Bread: In short, all the Goods he had being insufficient to satisfy the Fine, the Officers made Return of the Warrant, declaring upon Oath, *that they had not left him worth any Thing.*

ANNIS 1671 and 1672. In these Years the Sufferings of this People, for their religious Assemblies, were general: And the Goods and Chattels which were taken from them by Distress, in this County, for their Constancy in this particular Point, amounted to 333*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*

In the Year 1672, Laurence Farmer and William Christian, then Prisoners in Leicester Goal, were set at Liberty by the King's Letters Patent. In the same Year John Penford, of Kirby, for refusing to pay toward the Repairs of the Steeple-house, was excommunicated, and by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo committed to Prison, where he continued two Years.

ANNO 1674. On the 9th of the Month called April, Samuel Wilson was sent to Prison on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, at the Suit of Josiah Bond, Vicar of Mary's Parish in Leicester, for 40*s.* demanded for nine Years Tithe, though he occupied nothing titheable, but the Vicar pretended a customary Claim upon the House he dwelt in. In the latter Part of the same Month, Sarah Litherland, a Widow, having six small Children, was committed to Prison on a Prosecution in the Bishop's Court, for 7*s.* claimed for Tithes, at the Suit of Robert Hill, Vicar of Whitwich. In this Year also, Thomas Dash, of Hinckly, Labourer, for refusing to pay small Tithes, was imprisoned on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, at the Suit of George Naylor Priest. Likewise Thomas Follows, of Whetstone, Husbandman, was committed to Prison by the following Mittimus, viz.

“Leicestershire *fs.*

“To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal at Leicester in the said County.

T. Follows's
Mittimus.

“WE send you herewithal the Body of Thomas Follows, of Whetstone in the said County, Husbandman, for refusing to become bound with sufficient Sureties before us in Recognizance, to the Use of our Sovereign Lord the King, to give due Obedience to the Process of the Judge of his Majesty's Ecclesiastical Court of the Arch-Deaconry of Leicester, in a Cause of Substraction of Tithes there commenced against him by Mr. Thomas Robinson, Clerk of Enderby and Whetstone afore said, requiring you to keep him in your said Goal, without Bail or Mainprize, until he shall become bound with sufficient Sureties to give due Obedience to the said Process, according to the Statute in that Case made in the 27th Year of King Henry the Eighth, Cap. 20. And hereof you are not to fail. Given under our Hands and Seals the 27th of February 1674.

“THO. BEAUMONT.

“THO. STAVELY.”

By like Warrants, granted by the Justices upon *Significavits* out of the Ecclesiastical Court, *John Marriott* and *William Parker* were imprisoned at the Suit of *John Ray* of *Long-Claxton*, the Former of them for a Demand of 6s. and the Latter of 3s. for one Year's Tithe. In this Year also, *Thomas Poole*, of *Eventon*, was sent to Prison for Tithes.

ANNO 1675. In this Year a Book was published, and presented to the King and Parliament, intituled, *The continued Cry of the Oppressed for Justice*, from which we have taken the following Certificate, viz.

“FOR a Meeting at *Long-Claxton* or *Claxton*, four Persons were sent to Prison, and so much Goods at divers Times taken from some of the laid Meeting, that they had not a Cow left to give the young Children Milk: Their very Bedclothes, working Tools, and wearing Clothes, escaped not the Violence or Avarice of the Persecutors; the total Sum amounted to above 236l. Nor did this satisfy our Persecutors, for they cruelly dragged some Women in the Streets by the Necks, till they were near stifled, tearing the Clothes off their Heads and Backs. One Woman that gave suck was so beaten and bruised on her Breast, that it festered and broke, with which she hath endured many Weeks Misery and Torture: Another Woman of seventy five Years of Age was violently thrown down upon the Ground by one *W. Guy* Constable; the Men were sorely beaten, drawn and dragged out of the Meeting, some by the Heels, some by the Hair of the Head, and some so bruised, that they were not able to follow their Day-Labour. Others they whipt in the Face till the Blood ran down. There was one they furiously trod upon, till the Blood gushed out of his Mouth and Nose. To complete the Matter, the Informers took away from one of the Prisoners his Purse and Money, as if he had not been a quiet Neighbour, but a Prisoner of War: Nor was this accidental, but Design: No short Fit of Cruelty upon an extraordinary Provocation, for at this bitter Rate have they treated them for several Months.

LEICES-
TER-
SHIRE,
1675.
Significavits.

Cruel Perse-
cution at
Long-Clax-
ton.

Witnesses,

“EDWARD HALLUM
“WILLIAM MARRIOTT
“JOHN WILFORD
“WILLIAM SMITH
“RICHARD PARKER.”

Hence the Reader may form a just Idea of the violent Manner in which the Informers usually proceeded in breaking up and dispersing those Meetings, the Particulars of which Abuses it would be scarce possible to enumerate.

ANNO 1676. In this Year *George Power*, of *Swanington*, was committed to Prison for small Tithes, at the Suit of *John Brintnal* Priest: Also *William Timings*, of *Sibley*, Shepherd, was subpcena'd into the *Exchequer*, and afterward imprisoned, at the Suit of *Richard Saunders* Impropiator.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

ANNO 1679. In this Year, *John Smith*, a notorious Informer, who had long followed that scandalous Employment in *Nottinghamshire*, to the Ruin of many honest Families there, removed into this County. His first Attempt was on the 22d of the Month called *June*, at a Meeting in the House of *Edward Erbery* of *Broughton*, where he found about sixteen Persons sitting in Silence: He uttered several provoking Expressions on purpose to induce one or other of them to say something, that he might have a Pretence to Swear there was a Speaker; but this stale Policy of his failed him, for they all continued silent. Upon this he, with his Companion, a Fellow who had been in Goal for Felony, took the Names of such Persons as the Constable, who was with them, knew; and carried the Rest before Justice *Cole*, who fined *Edward Erbery* for his House 20l. The Informer with Officers, having got the Justice's Warrant, broke open *Edward's* House, and took away his House-

Practices of
J. Smith an
Informer.

E. Erbery's
House broke
open.

LEICES-
TER-
SHIRE,
&c.
1679.

Apprehension
of T. Pittow
and others.

Fine for not
aiding the
Officers.

Distresses for
Meeting.

Lord Beau-
mont's oppres-
sive Order.

Parish Officers
fined.

Distresses for
Meetings.

hold Goods, above the Value of the Fine, not leaving his Wife, an ancient sickly Woman, so much as a Bed to lie on. The said *Edward Erbery* was then in Prison; for he, with *Thomas Pittow* of *Southwark*, and *John Swan* of *Little-Pealing*, had been taken some Time before after a Meeting at *Broughton*, where *William Cotton*, Priest of that Place, apprehended *Thomas Pittow* under Pretence of his being a *Jesuit*, and carried him before his Brother *Cotton*, a Justice of the Peace, who tendred the Oath of Allegiance to all three of them, and upon their Refusal to take it sent them to Prison, where they lay near two Years after. It happened while the Informer and Officers were seiz- ing *Edward's* Goods, one *James Packer*, of *Dunton*, riding that Way, was by them charged to assist them, which he refused to do, wherefore upon their Complaint to the Justices he was fined 5*l*.

On the 29th of the same Month, for a Meeting held at the Widow *Townsend's*, in *Broughton*, upon the Information of the said *John Smith*, by Warrant from Justice *Cole*, were taken

	l.	s.	d.
From the said Widow, Household Goods, and her Daughter's wearing Apparel, to the Value of	23	0	0
<i>William Brooks</i> , Goods worth	00	19	0
<i>Richard Bailey</i> , seven Heifers worth	12	0	0
<i>Sarah Hilton</i> , Goods worth	4	0	0
	39	19	0

Nicholas Pawley, of *Whetstone*, by the said *Smith's* Information, was fined 10*l*. 5*s*. for being at a Meeting on the 6th of the Month called *July*. Next Morning the said Informer, with a Constable, took from him a Cow which they sold for 20*s*. they also employed Men to thresh out all the Corn and Pease the poor Man had, which they sold for 10*l*.

William Allen, of *Whetstone*, was also fined 10*l*. 5*s*. through *Smith's* Infor- mation, which a Kinsman, not of his Persuasion, paid.

Thomas Shenton, of *Cosby*, was fined for himself and his Wife 5*l*. 10*s*. for being at *Broughton* Meeting; and, by Warrant from the afore said Justice *Cole*, the Officers took two Cows, and five Ewes and Lambs, which the Constable could not presently sell, wherefore the Justice fined him 5*l*. for Neglect of his Office, which he was obliged to pay; and then the Justice granted his War- rant to other Officers, who broke open *Shenton's* Doors, and took all the Goods in his House, and upon his Grounds: But some of his Neighbours, to prevent his Ruin, laid down the Money, and took Part of the Goods for their Satisfaction.

John Evatt, a very poor Man, for a Meeting at his House, was fined 10*l*. 5*s*. for which the Officers seized his Goods of little Worth: But the Lord Beau- mont, one of the Justices, commanded the Officers to sell them if it were but for the thirtieth Part of their Value; whereupon they sold all they had taken for 7*s*. *William Howett* was fined 5*s*. for being at the same Meeting, and 10*l*. for the Poverty of *Evatt*, for which his Goods were distrained, and some of them sold: But the Informer complaining against the Parish Officers, viz. *John Bradshaw* Churchwarden, *Henry Pim* Overseer, *John Gettly* Third- burrow, and *Michael Pim* Constable, the Justice fined them 5*l*. each for Neglect of their Office: But they afterward proving the Informer's Complaint to be false, after much Trouble and Cost, had their Fines remitted.

William Marshall, of *Wimswould*, for two Meetings at his House, was fined 20*l*. and had a Cow taken from him worth 2*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*. which was sold to *Smith* the Informer for 1*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*. At the same Meeting, *John Fox* had Goods taken from him to the Value of 23*l*. 15*s*. his House being broke open to come at them. Most of those Goods were bought by *Smith* the Informer for 7*l*. Wherefore, under a Pretence of a Deficiency, they returned and took away more to the Value of 30*s*. From *Elizabeth Shepherd* they took an Hog worth

worth 10s. Some of the Officers being unwilling to make these Distresses, the Informers got Warrants against them, directed to the High Constables, who made Distress of the Officers Goods, so that they were forced to pay above 20l. to have their Goods again: After which the Informer, *Smith*, caused them to be sent to Goal, and to be bound over to the next Sessions to execute their Warrants: By such Means this impudent Informer, supported by the Authority of the Justices, kept the Parish-Officers in Fear of him, against whose Oath it was difficult to defend themselves.

ANNO 1680. On the 28th of the Month called *March*, *Smith* the Informer came to the House of *John Evans*, of *Wigston*, when the Meeting was dispersing, and several of the People gone, and no Preaching had been there: Nevertheless Justice *Cole* fined *John Evans* 20l. for which the Officers distrained his Cows, and sold three of them. On the 4th of the next Month the said *John Evans* was fined by the same Justice 30s. for being at a Meeting at *Knighton*. And for a Meeting at his own House on the 11th of the same Month, Justice *Beaumont* fined him 5l. For these Fines the Officers made several Distresses, taking at one Time five Beasts and two Swine, and they were sold at *Leicester*; at another Time they took twenty five Sheep out of his Field, and sold them; and at a third Time they carried away two of his best Horses and some Hay out of his Yard. Beside all which, for a Meeting at *Knighton* on the 13th of the Month called *June*, for Fines for himself and Family, and the Poverty of others, they took away two Cows worth 3l.

Taken also for Meetings,

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>Francis Broughton</i> and <i>Samuel Pawley</i> , Goods worth	1	8	0
<i>Richard Chamberlain</i> , seven Beasts worth	12	0	0
<i>John Vittal</i> , five Beasts and a three Years old Colt } worth	14	0	0
<i>Samuel Wilson</i> , of <i>Leicester</i> , a Mare, two Cows, and } an Heifer, worth	11	0	0
<i>John Penford</i> , of <i>Branston-Gate</i> , three Cows worth	14	0	0
<i>Godfrey Smith</i> , of <i>Burton</i> , seven Beasts worth	20	0	0
<i>Elizabeth Wale</i> , <i>John Evans</i> , <i>Margaret Townsend</i> , } <i>Richard Bayly</i> , and <i>William Brooks</i> , Goods worth	8	10	0
<i>John Ward</i> the Younger, of <i>Knighton</i> , a Copper } and his working Tools to the Value of	20	0	0
<i>Anne Wells</i> Widow, four Mares, three Heifers, eight } Cows, a Calf, seven Swine, seven Quarters of } Malt, and six Strike of Wheat, valued at	49	10	0
<i>Richard Read</i> , of <i>Syleby</i> , Bedding, Looms, and other } Goods, worth	10	0	0
	160	8	0

LEICES-
TER-
SHIRE,
&c.
1679.

Fines for
Meeting.

Distresses for
Meetings.

From *Thomas Poole*, a poor Man, they took his Bed and other Goods worth about 7l. In making which Distress they took even the Cradles his Children lay in; they also took a Child out of the Bed and laid it on the Floor, and made the Bed a Part of their Spoil.

In this Year *John Penford* was again fined 20l. for a Meeting held at his House in *Kirby-Mucklow*, for supplying the Necessities of the Poor, and other Works of Charity. *John Dixon*, Priest of the Parish, hearing of the Meeting, informed *Wenlock Stanley*, of *Branston*, thereof by Letter, who sent three of his Servants to be at the Meeting; and though they heard neither Praying nor Preaching there, yet the Lord *Beaumont* and Justice *Roberts* fined *John Penford* not only for the House, but also 10l. for a Preacher, though no Preacher was there. He appealed again to the Quarter Sessions, but the Justices there refused to hear his lawful Plea, and gave treble Damages against him.

Fines for a
Meeting at
J. Penford's
House to pro-
vide for the
Poor.

There

LEICESTER-
SHIRE,
&c
1680.

Close Pri-
soners a long
Time.

Distress and
Imprisonment.

Proceedings of
J. Smith the
Informer.

Barbarous
Actions at
Broughton
Meeting.

Invincible
Constancy in
Meeting.

Oaths tendred.

There lay at this Time closely imprisoned in *Leicester Goal*, *Samuel Harper* of *Harborough*, *Daniel Fox* of *Thruslington*, *John Wilsford* of *Fenny-Stanton* in *Huntingtonshire*, *Samuel Brown* of *Leicester* Apothecary, *John Elliott* of *Norkilworth* Husbandman, and *John Johnson* of the same Place Shepherd: The five last mentioned had been Prisoners about four Years in *November 1680*, on Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*, having been prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Courts for not going to the publick Worship. For which Cause also *Michael Woodcock*, *Elizabeth Hill*, *William Bromston*, *John Stevenson*, *Henry Brown*, *John Brooks*, and *William Webster*, suffered Imprisonment.

Richard Chamberlain, for frequenting religious Assemblies, had three Cows taken from him worth 10*l*. And *Richard Bayley* suffered about three Years and an Half Imprisonment for refusing to Swear.

ANNO 1681. On the 15th of the Month called *May*, the Informer *John Smith*, and his Servant, came to *Tborp* in the Parish of *Broughton*, where a Meeting had been, but was over, and the Friends gone homeward before he came: He rode after them, and by Violence forced some of them back again to an Alehouse, and took their Names. Then he went to Justice *Cole*, and informed of a Meeting which he had not seen; whereupon the Justice fined *Thomas Follows* 10*l*. 5*s*. *William Brooks* 6*l*. 10*s*. and *Edward Erbery* 3*l*. for which Distresses were forthwith made, by which they took from *W. Brooks* upwards of 15*l*. They had a little before taken all *Edward Erbery's* Goods, but he having bought some few Necessaries since that Seizure, they took them away to the Value of 3*l*. 10*s*.

In *November*, Endeavours were used by personal Cruelties, and barbarous Treatment, to dissolve the Meeting at *Broughton*. The principal Agents therein were *William Cotton* Priest of that Parish, *William Read* Churchwarden, *Robert Bent* Overseer, and *Richard Moore* Constable: These Parish-Officers first declared, *That they had a Warrant empowering them to break up the Meeting after what Manner they pleased*. The Method they chose, was to animate certain rude young Fellows to insult and abuse the Persons assembled: These Youngsters being askt for their Warrant, answered *that they were set on by the Parish*. They rusht into the Meeting, laid violent Hands on the Persons assembled, pluckt them out of the Meeting, and dragg'd them to and fro in the Dirt, the Officers standing by and reproaching the Sufferers, telling them, *they might have staid at Home*. On the 4th of *December*, these young Ruffians came early to the Meeting, pull'd down the Fire and threw it about the House: Then they dragged out *Elizabeth Hill* through the Dirt, till she was almost dead. Some of the Neighbours asking, *Whether they meant to kill the Woman?* They answered, *What care we, Mr. Cotton bid us*. When she seemed near expiring, one of them said, *Let us see if her Teeth be set*: Another putting his Finger into her Mouth, and perceiving her to breathe, said, *Let us at her again; the Devil is in her, and we will squeeze him out*. Then one of them went to the Constable, and returned, saying, *The Constable bid them proceed, and if any took her Part, to serve them in like Manner*. At length, leaving her for dead, they assaulted the Rest, flinging Dirt upon them, and tearing their Clothes: They fell violently upon *John Brooks*, dragg'd him backwards over an high Door-Cell, and tore his Clothes: They also dragg'd out *William Brooks* and others, throwing them one upon another, so that the Spectators thought they would have murdered them. But all these horrid Abuses could not deter this People from the Performance of their Christian Duty. On the 11th of the same Month they came again at their usual Hour, but found the Door of the Meeting-house lockt, and the Gate nail'd up: Wherefore they met in the Yard, whither the Officers came, and took the Men into Custody, and furiously dragg'd away the Women. Next Day *John Brooks* and *William Webster* were carried before Justice *Cotton*, the Priest's Brother, and another Magistrate, who tendred them the Oaths, and sent them to Prison. By this Time most of the Men belonging to the Meeting being shut up in Goal, the Women yet continued stedfast, and

and being deprived of their Meeting-house, provided another to assemble in, being in the same Parish.

On the 18th of the same Month the Women met, viz. *Elizabeth Hilton, Jane Hilton, Ann Griffith, Alice Griffith, Elizabeth Hill*, and others, whose Sufferings at that Time are related by themselves in the following Words, viz.

“ Friends being come to the other Meeting-house, where they were permitted to go, and quickly these rude Youths came in again, and fell to drawing us and throwing us on Heaps on the Floor, then dragged out some by the Head and Heels, and went and fetch Dirt and rubbed on our Faces; and the Priest's Man, whose Name is *Thomas Ambrose*, came into the House, and said to the Youths, *Daub them soundly, for it is no Matter if they were all put into the Mill-Dam.* So the Youths going on with their cruel pulling and haling, while the Priest's Man was there, pulling of us by the Heads, as if they would have strangled us, and by our Arms, as if they would have pulled our Joints asunder. And thus they continued, (as Friends supposed) about half an Hour: And the Priest's Man said, *His Master was one of the best Men in England, for if every one would serve them so, this Heresy would be rooted out.* So when we were off from the Meeting-Ground, and in the Street coming homeward, one of the Youths fell to gathering up Dirt, and threw in the Face of *Elizabeth Hilton*, and took an Handful of Dirt, and following of her, caught her by the Hood, and holding her behind the Head with one Hand, crammed the Dirt in her Mouth with the other. So *Elizabeth* being near spent, and leaning on a Gate, he caught her by the Head and daubed her so, that her Life being in Danger, two Friends (as soon as they could get to her) came and led her towards an House; but before she could get to the House, the Youths came on again, and threw *Elizabeth Hilton* and *Elizabeth Hill* down in the Street, and said, *That before they should go into the House they would spend their Blood.* And with much striving *Elizabeth Hilton* got near the Door to go to an House, but one of the Youths caught her by the Hood, and held her by the Hood till she was near strangled, and when his Hands were loosed, *Elizabeth Hilton* had a sore Fall over the Door-Cell to her great Hurt. So the Neighbours came in, and they being affrighted, and Friends much spent by their barbarous Cruelties, the Constable was sent for, but he came not; but one of the Youths came in, and seeing how it was, said, *I think she is dying indeed, but if she do, she is fitter for the Devil.* Nevertheless all necessary Means for her Recovery were used, yet she lay at *Broughton* where she had the Hurt, near three Weeks, before she got Home, being near two Miles from the Place of her outward Abode, and then they brought her Home, though weak. There was but one young Man, a Friend, at this last Meeting, they having (before these Cruelties were acted) been by a wicked Informer, *John Smith*, very much ruined by spoiling of their Goods, and since, (by the Instigation of this vile and wicked Priest *Cotton*) sent most of our Men Friends to Prison, and have now struck at the Lives of those that are left, by his wicked Agents.

“ Before these Transactions were thus acted, *Thomas Ambrose*, the Priest's Man, said, *That nothing would drive them away, but either Fire or Water, and if the House was his he would burn it on their Heads:* And said to the Officers, *that Elizabeth Hilton would be put into the Well:* And they asked, *Who should do it?* And he said, *He would.*”

As the Sufferings inflicted on these innocent and religious Women were remarkably cruel and unjust, so their Christian Patience under such barbarous Usage was the more conspicuous, by which they were supported and enabled to abide steadfast through so great a Torrent of Opposition.

ANNO 1682. On the 10th of the Month called *May*, for a Meeting at the House of *John Adams* in *Great-Bowden*, were taken,

LEICESTER-SHIRE,
1680.

LEICESTER
SHIRE,
1682.

Sufferings for
Meeting.

From the said *John Adams*, two Cows, two Heifers,
and some Household Goods, to the Value of } 22 11 0
Hannab Fish, twenty nine Lambs, Hogs, a Wag-
gon, two Calves, a Sow and Pigs, worth } 16 2 0
Francis Broughton, a poor Weaver, his Loom,
and Household Goods, worth } 4 16 6

William Smith, Household Goods to the Value of } 10 10 8
In the same Year, for Meetings at *Leicester*, were taken,
From *Samuel Wilson*, Goods worth above } 10 0 0
Elizabeth Wall, almost all she had, valued at } 5 0 0
Samuel Broton, Goods worth } 4 0 0
Richard Smith, his own and his Wife's Apparel,
their Childrens Bedding, and other Things, } 3 2 0
to the Value of } 1 10 0
Thomas Poole, Goods worth } 3 4 8
Thomas Hall, Money and Goods to the Value of } 0 17 0
Sarah Davis, Goods worth } 27 13 8

For being at
a Funeral.

For being present at the Burial of the Wife of one
Edward Easterton, the said *Edward* himself was fined } 6 10 0
5^h 5^s. and had his Goods taken away to the Value of } 9 0 0
Thomas Pirstow, for preaching there, was convicted by
the Oaths of two Informers, who neither saw nor heard
him, and had his Doors broke open, and his Goods taken
away to the Value of } 14 10 0
Richard Crowley, for being at the same Burial, had
Timber taken from him worth } 10 5 0
Thomas Marshall, for being at the same Funeral, } 6 10 0
John Webster, three Cows valued at } 46 15 0

False Infor-
mation.

Richard Read, on a false Information of his being at the said Burial, was
fined 10 s. though he was at that Time sick in Bed. Several also of the Neigh-
bours, not *Quakers*, were fined for being at the same Funeral, and paid their
Fines.

Meeting at
the House of
J. Fox.

ANNO 1683. On the 15th of the Month called *July* was a Meeting at
the House of *John Fox*, of *Wimswould*, to which *Smith* the Informer came with
a Constable and Headborough. The Informer coming in lockt the Door, and
took out the Key. Then they took down the Names of those that were met.
On the 23d, *Smith* brought a Warrant signed by *Richard Lister*, of *Thorp-
Arnold*, a Justice of the Peace, directed to the Constable, Headborough,
Churchwardens, and Overseers of *Wimswould*, of the Execution of which they
gave the following Certificate:

Certificate of
executing a
Warrant.

" W H E R E A S we the Officers of *Wimswould* in the County of
" *Leicester*, with *John Smith* of *Hoton* in the same County, whose
" Names are under-written, by Virtue of a Warrant to us directed from Jus-
" tice *Lister* of *Thorp-Arnold* in the said County, to levy 21 l. on the Goods
" and Chattels of *John Fox* of *Wimswould* in the County aforesaid, we the said
" Officers, with *John Smith* abovesaid, upon the 23d Day of *July* 1683, by
" Virtue of the said Warrant did enter into the said House of *John Fox*, and
" other

other Ground, and did make Seizure of all the Goods and Chattels of the said John Fox, and did make Sale of the same to Joseph Fox, of Wimsbould, aforeaid, for 21 l. Which Sum of 21 l. we do acknowledge the receiving of, and do acquit him of the same. Witness our Hands, and carried away by us, the Justices, William White, William Ballon, John Richard Ballon, Richard Ballon, Elizabeth Shedd, and Mary Marshall, 1683.

THOMAS WARNER, Constable.

THOMAS CONSTABLE, Overseer.

The Justice and the Informer in this Case, having received two Thirds of the Money, would not trust the Overseer with the Poor's Part, but ordered it to be paid to the Constable, with a Charge for him to distribute it among such Poor as were of the National Church only, and that no Dissenters should partake of it: A Caution as to the Quakers unnecessary, for the poorest of them would not have accepted any Part of the Gain of such Oppression.

On the 26th of the Month called January, William Purdy, of Daulby, for being at two Meetings, was fined 11 l. 10 s. by the said Justice Lister, upon Smith's Information, and had taken from him Goods to the Value of 50 l. but sold to a Neighbour upon Payment of the Fine for 11 l. 10 s. Also Valentine Gregory of Statbourn, for being at a Meeting, had Goods taken from him worth 9 l. 18 s.

About the same Time the said John Smith came to a Meeting at Claxton, and having charged the Constables to keep the Doors, he took the Names of the Friends assembled, and about two Weeks after, by Warrants from Justice Lister, made a Seizure of the Goods of William Hawley, Thomas Doubleday, John Webster, John Merriott junr, Richard Jarvis, and Henry Brown, to the Value of 15 l. which the Officers paid into the Hands of Justice Lister. At another Meeting at Claxton, about a Fortnight after the former, Smith came again and took Names, and procured a Warrant, by which Distresses were made on the Goods of Edward Merriott, William Doubleday, John Webster, and William Parker, to the Value of 4 l.

The Informers, Smith, and another whose Name was Warner, were exceeding bold, and would sometimes make Informations upon mere Conjectures, which being given in upon Oath, were esteemed by the Justices a sufficient Ground for Conviction. A remarkable Instance of this Kind happened in the Case of Joseph Holt and Augustin Allen, both of Rutlandshire, who, on the 13th of the Month called February 1683, being seen by the Informers in a Yard near the House of William Chapman in Somerby, where a Meeting was sometimes held, they at all Adventures made Information to Justice Lister of the said Persons being at a Meeting there. The Justice, as forward to convict as the others to inform, accepted their Evidence, and laid a Fine of 6 l. on Joseph Holt, and 5 l. 10 s. on Augustin Allen, and because they dwelt in another County, the Justice sent a Certificate of their Conviction to Sir Edward Noel of Whitwell in that County; and the said Augustin Allen had four Cows taken by Distress worth 9 l. which his Wife, not of his Persuasion, redeemed by paying his Fine; though indeed the Persons had not been at the Meeting for which they were convicted.

About the same Time, Smith meeting John Richards on the Highway, supposed him to be coming from a Meeting, and went to Justice Lister and positively swore what he only imagined. The Justice presently granted his Warrant against Richards as lawfully convicted before him of being that Day at a Conventicle at William Chapman's House; which, though true, Smith, who swore it, did not know. Upon this Conviction Richards had four Cows taken from him worth 14 l.

ANNO 1684. On the 22d of the Month called June, John Fox was again fined 20 l. 10 s. for suffering a Meeting at his House, upon Smith's Information, who on the 24th at four in the Morning, while the said John Fox was in Bed, came with Officers and searched the Yard and Outhouses, but finding little

LEICES-
TER-
SHIRE,
&c.
1683.

Division of
the Pours

Fines for
Meetings

More Prose-
cutions for
Meeting

Informations
on Conjecture.

Forward Con-
victions of
some Justices.

Repeated Dis-
tresses on J.
Fox.

LEICES-
TER-
SHIRE,
&c.
1684.

Fines for a
silent Meet-
ing.

A Meeting-
house plun-
der'd.

Other Dis-
tresses.

Wicked Beha-
viour of
Smith the In-
former.

More Spoil on
the Goods of
J. Fox.

Goods sold to
the Informer
much under
Value.

Information
against T.
Penford and
others for
Meeting.

little there, urged the Officers to break open the House, which they were un-
willing to do, but to pacify the Informer promised to pay the Fine. On the
last Day of the same Month the Officers came again and entred the House,
and carried away in two Carts, Goods to the Value of 20*l*. but sold them for
10*l*. Edward Belton, William White, Elizabeth Shepherd, and Mary Marshall,
were convicted, and fined for being at the same Meeting.

On the 8th of the Month called July, the Mayor of Leicester, and two
other Justices, came to the Meeting there, which was held in Silence: They
caused the Persons assembled to be taken out of the Place, and fined Mary
Wood 20*l*. for the House, Elizabeth Wall 10*s*. Richard Smith for his Wife 10*s*.
and Thomas Aslin for his Wife 5*s*.

On the 28th of September, Smith came to a Quarterly Meeting, and took
Names, and made Information, upon which Mary Wood, Elizabeth Wall, and
John Penford, were fined; and in consequence of these and the former Fines,
the Officers shortly after took all the Forms and a Bedstead out of the Meeting-
house, and from the said Mary Wood her Bedding, Bedsted, and other Things,
leaving her nothing to lie on, nor scarce to sit on. From Elizabeth Wall,
Richard Smith, Thomas Aslin, John Penford, and Richard Crowley, they took
Goods and Apparel worth 11*l*. 10*s*. And from Samuel Brown, for himself and
his Wife being at Meetings, Goods to the Value of upwards of 15*l*. Thomas
Marshall was also fined 4*l*. for being at the same Meetings.

On the 16th of November, Information was again made of a Meeting at
John Fox's House, and Justice Lister again fined him 20*l*. And on the 2d
of December, the Informers, Smith and Warner, came to Fox's House. Smith
carried there till Warner fetcht the Officers: John Fox desiring to see the War-
rant, Smith let him read it, which he did, till he came to a Clause mentioning
more than five Persons beside the Family, which Fox said was not true.
Then Smith snatcht the Warrant out of his Hand, kicking him, and calling
him Son of a Whore: Such rugged Behaviour was usual with that Kind of Men.
Warner soon returned with the Officers, and a Cart and Horse, and Thomas
Stubbs, a Carpenter, whom they employed to take down the Bedsteds, while
the Informers and Officers loaded away the other Goods. So they left very
little of any Value, except the Bed which his Wife lay sick on. They took
away even their Meat and Drink, and the Casks their Beer was in. They also
took the Matting that was nail'd to the Floor, and a Bench that was fastned
to the House: They pickt up a Copper which was fastned in a Furnace, and
carried it away. They also took away a Cow and Hay out of his Yard. The
Value of the Goods taken at this Time was about 14*l*. 3*s*.

On the 29th of the same Month, Smith and Warner having heard that the
poor Man had in the mean Time got some Bedding again, and other Necessi-
faries into his House for his Family, some of whom, for want of Beds, had been
obliged to lodge elsewhere; they came again with Officers, and Smith, to
shew his Authority, threatned the Officers, that if they left any Thing in the
House worth a Penny, he would make it cost them 5*l*. a Man; upon which they
swept away all they could find. They continued ransacking the House till
about eight in the Evening, when, the Weather being very cold, the said John
Fox and his whole Family, viz. his Wife, four small Children, the eldest not four
Years old, and two Maid-Servants, were constrained to lodge at other Houses,
having neither Bed nor Bedclothes left, by which they and the Children con-
tracted much Cold. The Goods taken at that Time were valued at 8*l*. 11*s*. 3*d*.
but sold to Warner the Informer for 2*l*. 2*s*. 6*d*.

Mary Marshall, a poor ancient Woman, for being at a Meeting in the said
John Fox's House, had fourteen Pounds of Linen Yarn and her Bedclothes taken
from her, to the Value of 1*l*. 12*s*.

On the 23d of December, Smith and Warner gave Information to Thomas
Ludlam, Mayor of Leicester, against Thomas Penford, whom the Mayor fined
10*l*. for the Poverty of the Owner of the Meeting-house, and 10*s*. for his
own being there, for which the Officers seized seven Quarters of Wheat worth
about

about 17^l. 10^s. Samuel Watson for himself and Wife being at the same Meeting, had taken from him Wheat worth 9^l. And John Evans, for a Meeting at his House in Wigston, was fined 20^l. and had an hundred and thirty Sheep taken from him valued at 30^l. For a Meeting at the House of Dorothy Evatt, were taken

LEICES-
TER
SHIRE,
&c.
1684.

From the said Dorothy, Goods worth
Thomas Glover, Goods worth

l.	s.	d.
0	18	0
5	0	0

More Fines
for Meeting.

Richard Newcomb, of Castle-Dunnington, all his Goods, not a Bed, Dish, nor Spoon, left, but he, his Wife, and Children, were obliged to lodge at a Neighbour's House.

l.	s.	d.
30	0	0

Jaac Gifburne, of Kegworth, Goods worth

l.	s.	d.
6	0	0
41	18	0

The said Jaac was fined 15^l. upon a false Information, for Preaching, but not having Goods enough to satisfy that Fine, the Officers gave the Informers Money out of their Pockets.

William Launder, of Long-Hoton, had Goods taken away, and among other Things his Loom, wherewith he, being a Weaver, wrought for the Support of himself, and his aged Mother, to the Value of 5^l. George Berisford, of Lockington, had working Tools and other Goods taken from him to the Value of 10^s. 6^d. William Hewett also had his Goods sold for a Fine of 3^l. 10^s. but they proving too little, the Officers agreed with the Informers as well as they could. Edward Hallum, of Hose, had Goods taken from him to the Value of 20^l. 10^s.

Working Tools
distrained.

ANNO 1685. In this Year our Accounts make mention of thirty three Persons remaining Prisoners at Leicester, viz.

33 Prisoners
at Leicester.

1. On Writs de Excommunicato capiendo, thirteen, namely, Thomas Dab, who had been Prisoner above eleven Years; Richard Bayley, about six Years; William Bramston and John Stevenson, about three Years; John Johnson, John Elliott, and Daniel Fox, about eight Years. Elizabeth Hill, about five Years. Also Benjamin Smart, Richard Chamberlain, John Vital, William Smith, and Michael Woodcock.

Long Imprison-
ments.

2. For Absence from the National Worship, two, namely, Richard Sharp and John Webster.

3. For refusing to Swear, eighteen, namely, Thomas Pustow, Edward Erbery, and John Swann, who had continued Prisoners about six Years. Also Thomas Corby, Margaret Burton, Jane Ireland, Anne Clark, Hannab Smith, William Smith, Francis Child, Samuel Heyrick, William Sibley, Judah Carter, Thomas Mackernejs, Mary Ward, Mary Webb, Thomas Underwood, and John Warren; who had been sent to Prison by an Order of Sessions.

ANNO 1686. The before-mentioned Prisoners were generally set at Liberty upon the Proclamation issued by King James the Second for a free Pardon. Their religious Assemblies were held with less Interruption, and Informations against them discouraged. Smith, the old Informer, was curbed in his Attempts by the King's Direction, as appears by the following Letter, directed

Discharge of
Prisoners.

" To the Right Honourable the Earl of Huntington, one of his
" Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, Chief Recorder
" of Leicester, Custos Rotulorum of the County of Leicester.

" MY LORD,

Whitehall, Dec. 7. 1686.

" THE King being informed that John Smith, a common Informer,
" doth very vexatiously prosecute the Quakers in the County of Lei-
" cester, and in the Town and County of Nottingham, and his Majesty being

Duke of New-
castle's Ler-
ter.

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" pleased

LEICESTERSHIRE,
1686.

More Times
for Meeting.

"pleased to extend his Favour to those of that Persuasion, his Majesty would have your Grace direct the Justices of Peace to give no Sort of Countenance to the said John Smith, and his Prosecution against the Quakers. My Lord, I am for his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, one of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, &c."

"Your Grace's most faithful humble Servant,

SUNDERLAND, P."

Upon this Discouragement which the Justices were directed to give the Informers, and such as made a Trade of Preying on conscientious Subjects, the Persecution in this County abated: Wherefore we take our Leave of Leicestershire, and proceed to Lincolnshire.

LINCOLNSHIRE.
1654.

CHAP. XXIV.
LINCOLNSHIRE.

ANNO 1654.

First Sufferer
E. Hooton.

Sufferings for
Several Causes.

THE first Sufferer among this People in this County was Elizabeth Hooton, who for bearing her Testimony to the Truth in the Place of publick Worship at Beckingham was imprisoned five Months.

ANNO 1655. The said Elizabeth Hooton was again imprisoned twelve Weeks for exhorting the People to Repentance: Which William Telf also attempting to do in the Steeple-house at Raifon, was dragged out thence by the Head and Feet. In this Year also, Edmund Woolsey, being chosen Constable, and refusing to take the usual Oath to qualify for that Office, was fined 5*l*. And in the same Year, John Pidd, of Beckingham, for refusing to pay Tithe, suffered ten Weeks Imprisonment.

Imprisonment
of T. Bromley
for not
Swearing.

His Death in
Prison.

ANNO 1657. Thomas Bromley, summoned to serve on a Jury, and refusing to Swear, was fined 4*s*. and suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 8*s*. He was afterward imprisoned in Lincoln Castle, at the Suit of the Priest of Fillingham, where, after four Months, he died, being old and infirm, and sometimes wanting Necessaries. The Woman, who kept the Goal, pitying his Age and Poverty, gave him Leave now and then to go into the Town to earn somewhat toward his Support; but for her Lenity, Ralph Hollingworth, his Prosecutor, petitioned the Judge to have her fined. He laid down his Head in Peace, as a faithful Witness against the Antichristian Oppression of Tithes. John Harvey, of Spalding, fined 10*s*. for refusing to Swear, had his Goods taken away to the Value of 21*s*.

Persecution of
W. Willows
and T. Edwards
for not
Swearing.

Cloth taken
away.

For not taking
off his Hat.

William Willows and Thomas Edwards, because they could not take an Oath, were refused their Freedom of Boston Corporation, to which they had a Right, and William Willows was so excessively fined by the Mayor for opening his Shop, that he was obliged to remove his Habitation.

William Wallace, a Scotchman, standing to sell Cloth in Boston Market, had some of his Goods taken away by the Mayor's Order, under Pretence that he had no Right to sell any there, but in Reality for being a Quaker, since that Privilege was not denied to other Foreigners.

George Reeve, of Spalding, being summoned to the Quarter Sessions, appeared there with his Hat on, for which he was sent to the House of Correction as a Disturber of the Peace.

Edmund

Edmund Woolley, riding through Boston to a Meeting, was fined for travelling on the Sabbath, and had his Mare taken from him by the Mayor's Order. He was shortly after committed to Lincoln Goal, at the Suit of Francis Ball, an Inappropriator, or Farmer of Tithes. After about a Year's Imprisonment he died: A faithful and conscientious Man, and acknowledged to be so even by his Prosecutor, who said, He believed Edmund would have paid him his Tithes, had he thought them his Right.

ANNO 1658. Arnold Trueblood was committed to Lincoln Goal for Tithes, and after many Weeks Confinement died there.

In the same Year John Pidd, of Beckingham, was again imprisoned six Months: Also John Seele, of Liverton, a poor Labourer, was committed to Prison for a small Demand for Tithes: And Robert Angleshaw, for a Claim of 40 was imprisoned till an Acquittance of his paid the Prosecutor 9^l 16^s. Also Richard Pidd and Joseph Stokes were detained several Weeks in Lincoln Castle for Tithes, till discharged by Order of a Committee of Parliament.

Herakiah Croft, of Eggle, for a Demand of 6^l 13^s 4^d. for Tithes, was imprisoned seventeen Weeks, and after his Release thence, had his Cattle taken away to the Value of 40^l. Also John Wressell, James Huthensson, and John Johnson, were kept in Prison till some of their Relations, for Demands of 17. 15^s. 10^d. for Tithes, paid their Prosecutors 6^l 10^s.

Edward Edwards, of Antois on the Isle of Anselme, was prosecuted for Tithes to an Execution, when, to prevent the Seizure of his Bed and Goods, his Mother paid the Prosecutor 20^l.

John Whitehead, Robert Fowler, and George Reeve, for uttering some Christian Exhortation to the People assembled in their Place of Worship at Boston, were clapt up in Prison, and the said George Reeve had Irons put upon him as if he were a Felon, and was kept in that Manner in a cold Place in Winter. William Telf, for reproving some People in the Street at Market-Raison for their Swearing and Prophaneness, was barbarously used, and both he and his Wife were beaten and stoned out of the Town. Also Edmund Woolley, for publickly testifying against their Use of vain Sports and Gaming, was by the rude People at Heapham sorely beaten and abused, and had much of his Blood spilt.

ANNO 1659. Robert Whitman, of Dunnington, and Vincent Frotheringham, and his Son were imprisoned for Tithes in the Castle at Lincoln. Richard Parnell, of Edworth, for 3^d 4^d. demanded by the Priest for Smoke-penny, had taken from him about Midsummer this Year, Goods worth 13^s. Several others in this and the two preceding Years, for Demands of 17. 17^s 2^d. for Steeple-house Rates, had Goods taken from them to the Value of 7^l 6^s 4^d.

ANNO 1660. In the Month called April, William Telf, Edward Willey, and John Capes, were committed to Prison for Tithes. And Thomas Hampest, of Wighstone, for a Demand of 1^l 19^s. for Tithes, had his Goods taken away to the Value of 10^l. Robert Parker, for a Claim of 2^l 15^s. Goods worth 10^l 9^s 4^d. and James Watson, for 7^l. Goods to the Value of 21^l. In the same Year Alexander Cheesman, Robert Peckover, Thomas Graves, William Berrier, and George Reeve, for Demands of 4^l 13^s 6^d. for Tithes, had Goods taken from them to the Amount of 9^l 3^s. Also William Phillips, for the same Cause suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 5^l 5^s. And Richard Robinson had three Sheep and two Lambs taken away for a Claim of 11^s. for Tithes.

On the 8th of the Month called May, John Smith and Robert Harrison, both of Sixhill, being cited to appear before the Justices for not paying toward the Repairs of the Steeple-house, and appearing with their Hats on, the Cause for which they were summoned was let drop, and the Justices sent them to Goal for a pretended Contempt of Authority in standing covered before them.

ANNO 1661. Thomas Richardson was committed to the County Goal on an Attachment out of the Exchequer for Tithes.

LINCOLN-SHIRE.

1657.

Death of Edmund Woolley in Prison.

Death of Arnold Trueblood.

Other Imprisonments for Tithes.

Prosecutions for Tithes.

G. Reeve iron'd.

Cruel Usage.

Prosecutions for several Causes.

Imprisonment and Distresses for Tithes.

and for Steeple-house Rates.

Pretended Contempt.

Imprisonment of T. Richardson.

LINCOLN-SHIRE.
1661.

Imprisonment
of J. White-
head.
Second Impri-
sonment of
J. White-
head.

On the 13th of November this Year, *John Whitehead*, taken at the House of *Humphry Cod* at *Binbrough*, was by the Justices sent Prisoner to *Lincoln Castle*, where he lay three Months.

ANNO 1662. *John Whitehead* was again committed to Prison by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

“To the Keeper of his Majesty’s Goal at the Castle of Lincoln,
“or to his Deputy or Deputies there.”

“Lincoln-Lindsey.”

His Mittimus.

“FORASMUCH as *John Whitehead*, of *Oswick* in the County of *York*,
“was, upon Complaint brought before us this Day, by Warrant, for uphold-
“ing private Meetings, contrary to an Act of Parliament made and provided;
“and being tendred the Oath of Allegiance by us, being two of his Majesty’s
“Justices of the Peace for the said Parts and County, according to the Sta-
“tute in that Case made and provided, did refuse to take the said Oath.
“These are therefore in the King’s Majesty’s Name to charge and command
“you, immediately upon Receipt hereof, to receive him the said *John White-*
“*head* into your said Goal, and him there safely keep without Bail or Main-
“prize until the next general Goal-Delivery, to be holden at the said Castle
“of *Lincoln*, for the said County: And hereof you are not to fail, as you
“will answer the Contrary at your Perils. Given under our Hands and Seals
“this 9th Day of *July*, in the fourteenth Year of his Majesty’s Reign, Annoq;
“Dom. 1662.”

“MARTIN LISTER,

“JOHN BOSWELL.”

Commitments
of many for
not Swearing.

About the same Time *William Morris*, *William Bancroft*, and *John Cleasby*, were committed to the same Prison for refusing to Swear. At the Affizes on the 19th of the Month called *July*, they were ordered to remain in Prison till the next Quarter Sessions; but the Justices releated *William Bancroft* sooner, in Compassion to his old Age and Infirmities; *William Morris* was also discharged at a petty Sessions intervening. At the Quarter Sessions on the 7th of *October*, *John Whitehead* and *John Cleasby* were indicted for refusing the Oath of Allegiance, fined 5*l.* each, and recommitted till Payment. On the 14th of *December*, *Vincent Barrow*, *John Thetting*, *Thomas Torksey*, *Robert Kelsey*, *Peter Moody*, *Thomas Barrow*, *Charles Tate*, *John Clark*, *William Clark*, *Richard Parnell*, *John Spicer*, and *Thomas Halifax*, were taken at a Meeting, and for refusing to Swear, committed to Prison. At a general Sessions on the 15th of the next Month they were fined 30*s.* each, and set at Liberty.

Many other
Imprisonments.

On the 5th of *October*, *Samuel Davy*, *Henry Wilson*, *Gregory Sherwin*, *William Carnall*, *John Thompson*, *Stephen Willoughby*, *George Reeve*, *John May*, *Susan Thomas*, *Margaret Smith*, *Rebecca Preston*, and *Ellen Wilson*, were committed to *Spalding Prison*, but after five Days were all set at Liberty, except *Samuel Davy*, to whom the Justices tendred the Oath of Allegiance, and upon his Refusal to take it sent him to *Lincoln Castle*, where he continued Prisoner about twenty two Weeks. On the 12th of the same Month, *Thomas Summers*, *Christopher Clark*, *John Scotney*, *Edward Fisher*, *John Sandby*, and *Thomas Mathers*, were apprehended at a religious Meeting, and committed to *Spalding Prison*, where they continued about a Quarter of a Year.

At a Sessions held at *Castor* on the 14th of the Month called *January*, *Thomas Markham*, *Robert Rockbill*, *William Williamson*, *John Rockbill*, and *Thomas Benson*, were fined 20*s.* each, having been taken at a Meeting, and detained in the Custody of the Constable till that Sessions. About the 5th of the next Month, *James Taylor*, *Thomas Norton*, and *Robert Walker*, three poor Men,

Men, were committed to *Lincoln Castle* for Tithes. And at the Affizes on the 19th of the Month called *March*, *John Cleasby*, after eight Months Imprisonment, for refusing to Swear, was set at Liberty.

ANNO 1663. At a Quarter Sessions on the 28th of the Month called *April*, *John Whitehead*, after more than nine Months Imprisonment for refusing to take an Oath, was discharged by the Justices, upon the Intercession of Captain *Foster*, a compassionate Man, and one who bore some Authority under the Earl of *Lindsey*. During his Imprisonment, *John Titman*, *Edward Tisdale*, and *George Billers*, were committed to the same Goal, and lay there three Months, for absenting themselves from the publick Worship.

On the 22d of *December*, *Charles Howell*, of *Grantham*, Baker, after a Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical Court for not coming to his Parish Church, and not hearing Divine Service there, was Excommunicated, and by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo committed to *Lincoln Castle*.

ANNO 1664. *Robert Boguly*, of *Croyland*, prosecuted for Absence from the publick Worship, was committed to Prison by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo on the 30th of the Month called *May*. And by a like Writ, for the same Cause, *William Hayworthingham*, of *Somercates*, was also sent to Goal on the 25th of the Month called *August* in the same Year; and about the same Time *William Brown*, of *Croyland*, and *William Parnell*, of *Epworth*.

ANNO 1665. On the 28th of the Month called *March*, *Roger Williams*, of *Lincoln*, Sadler, and on the 10th of *September*, *William Berrier*, *Robert Scott*, *John Ashton*, and *William Powton*; and on the 27th of *December*, *William Anthony*, of *Weston*, Husbandman, were committed to Prison on Writs de Excommunicato capiendo, in Consequence of Prosecutions in the Spiritual Courts for Non-Attendance at the publick Worship.

ANNO 1666. In the Month called *July*, *Robert Richardson* was imprisoned in *Lincoln Goal* by the Sheriff's Warrant, upon an Attachment out of the *Exchequer* on a Prosecution there for Tithes.

ANNO 1667. In *September*, *William Clark* and *Robert Freeman*, and in the Month called *January*, *William Garland*, of *Gainsborough*, having been prosecuted in the *Exchequer* for Tithes, were committed to Prison by Attachments out of that Court.

In this Year, for refusing to take an Oath when tendred them at a Court-Leet,

	l.	s.	d.
<i>Thomas Parnell</i> suffered Distress of Goods worth	8	0	0
<i>William Massey</i> of <i>Sutton</i> , to the Value of	2	3	0
<i>John Morley</i> of <i>Adlin-Fleet</i> , to the Value of	1	3	0
	11	6	0

LINCOLN-SHIRE.
1663.

Discharge of
J. Whitehead.

Imprisonment
on a Writ de
Excom. Cap.

Imprisonments
on Writs de
Excom. Cap.

On Attachment.

Exchequer
Prosecutions.

Distresses for
not Swearing.

Also *Christopher Wilson*, of *Adlin-Fleet*, had six Bushels of Barley taken from him for the same Cause.

ANNO 1668. *Vincent Frotheringham*, of *Hykeham*, was committed to Prison in the Month called *January*, on an Attachment out of the *Exchequer* for Tithes. And about this Time *Joseph Pope*, of *Irby*, after he had suffered Distress of Corn, Wool, Sheep, Hogs, Hay, and other Things, to the Value of 18l. 12s. 10d. for Tithes claimed by *John Harness*, Priest of that Parish, was by the Priest's Influence on the Bayliff of the Town, and his Application to the Steward of the Lady *Hollis*, and their Misrepresentations to her, turned out of his Farm.

ANNO 1669. On the 19th of the Month called *August*, *George Craggs*, Priest of *Anderby*, with three Servants, came to *William Cliff*, of that Town, as he was lading his Corn, and demanded Tithes, which, because *William* refused to give him, the Priest ordered his Servants to strike the said *William* and *Katharine* his Wife, saying, *They are excommunicated Persons, and if you knock them on the Head, there is no Law against you: I will be your Warrant: The Way is clear.* This Priest called himself a *Protestant*, but was eager to

Prosecutions
for Tithes.

Unusual
Barbarity of the
Priest of
Anderby in
abusing a Man
and his Wife.

LINCOLN-SHIRE.
1669.

throwing her
down, so that
she miscarried.

After which
he imprisoned
the Man.

Death of
that Priest,
and Remarks,
thereon.

Exchequer
Prosecutions.

Distresses for
Meetings.

put in Practice the worst Part of Popery : His Servants not answering his Purpose, he himself struck the said *Katharine* with a Fork, and her Husband desiring him to forbear and not abuse his Wife, who was then with Child, the Priest enraged took up another Fork, and pushed her violently on the Body several Times, and threw her down ; he also said to his Servants in his Fury, *Fetch my Sword, I will be revenged of them.* In short, the poor Woman was sorely affrighted, much hurt and bruised, so that she soon after miscarried of two Children, one of which had plain Marks of the Blows received, and she herself was in great Danger of her Life. Within a few Days after this Barbarity to the Woman and her unborn Babes, the Priest also cast her Husband into Prison by a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, by that Means burying the Man alive, whom he could not excite his Servants to kill. It happened within a few Weeks after that the Priest himself also died : Upon whose Death, observing People made such Reflections as naturally did rise from the recent Notice they had taken of the Man's Imprisonment, the Injury done to his Wife, and the Death of her two Children, as aforesaid.

In this Year also, *Samuel Troutings, Robert Smith, John Potter, and Robert Atkinson*, were imprisoned by Attachments on Prosecutions in the Court of Exchequer for Tithes.

ANNO 1670. On the 5th of the Month called June, *Thomas Richardson*, of *Mumby-Chapel*, for a Meeting at his House, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 29l. 6s. 8d. Also *William Pidd, John Betts, George Waters, John Waters, Thomas Atkin, and Thomas Swash*, for being at the same Meeting, had Goods taken from them worth 3l. 18s. 10d. In the same Year the said *John Waters*, for a Meeting held at his House, had Goods taken from him worth 29l. And from *Thomas Richardson and William Cliff*, for being at that Meeting, Goods were taken worth 18s.

For Meetings at *Gedney in Holland*, Goods were taken

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>Robert Binks</i> , for a Meeting at his House, to the Value of	20	0	0
<i>Nathanael Gregg</i> , for a Meeting at his House	15	0	0
<i>Richard Kitton</i> , for his * Wife	1	4	0
<i>Nathanael Gregg, Thomas Johnson, Thomas Sowter, Richard Wilson, George Reeve, and Henry Wilson</i>	5	11	1
<i>Edward Tisdell</i> , for a Meeting at his House	13	10	0
<i>Alice Preston, James Fiddill, and Stephen Willoughby</i>	2	14	0
<i>George Sherwin and William Clark</i>	1	18	0
<i>Ralph Anthony</i> , of <i>Weston</i> , for a Meeting at his House	12	0	0
<i>John Scotney</i> , for being at that Meeting	2	9	0
<i>John Titimus</i> , of <i>Moulton</i> , for a Meeting at his House	5	14	0
<i>Samuel Waters, Thomas Mathers, and John Speck</i>	2	7	0
	82	7	1

Sudden Death
of a persecu-
ring Priest,
and of an In-
former.

A busy Informer at this Time, named *John Hunleby*, was warned by one *Lancelot Marshall* of the Judgments of God upon Persecutors, and put in Mind of the sudden Death of one *William Carter*, Priest of *Honington*, a Promoter of Persecution there, and very active in causing Distresses to be made, who, as he was coming from the High Constable's House, was struck with Sickness, and soon after found dead in his Bed, unknown to the People where he lodged. *Hunleby* took this Friendly Monition amiss, and was very angry, and threatened the Friends at the Meeting where it was given, warning them to appear before the Justice next Morning. But so it happened that *Hunleby* was suddenly

* The Informers swore she was at a Meeting when she was ten Miles distant.

denly struck with a mortal Disease that Night, so that he died a lingering Death; and his own Sister reported, that she never saw any Person die so strangely.

LINCOLN:
SHIRE.
1670.

Taken from * Thomas Everett, of Honington, for Meetings	40	0	0
at his House, Goods worth	14	18	0
John Peackel, of Carleton, to the Value of	2	11	4
Charles Howett, Henry Howett, Christopher	1	0	0
Smith, John Killingley, and John Richardson	3	11	0
Joseph and Benjamin Roper, Goods worth			
† Thomas Summers and John Wilkinson			

Distresses for
Meetings.

Taken from Richard Pidd, of Beckingham, for Meetings	17	3	6
at his House, Goods worth:	2	12	4
Richard Burdett, William Burdett, and Mary	2	17	0
Parker			
John Green, George Lucas, and John Trueblood			

For Meetings in the Isle of Axholme, and at Gainsborough, and Places adjacent, were taken

From John Urry, Goods to the Value of	18	0	0
Christopher Edwards	33	10	0
John Pilsworth and Richard Parnel	1	16	9
William Edlington, Alice Tate, and John Clark	9	1	0
Robert Everett, Peter Naylor, and Thomas Taylor	4	16	4
Adam Foster, George Boulder, and Thomas Tee	6	8	0
Thomas Peele and Henry Simpson	14	10	0
Henry Garland	37	3	0

Taken also for other Meetings,			
From John Walcott, of Helperingham, Goods worth	2	0	0
John Pidd, Henry Carlton, Mary Sharp, John	2	10	0
Mower, and Margery Carnell			

There had been taken, some Time before, for absenting themselves from the National Worship,

From Henry Wilson, of Gedney, for himself and Wife	2	13	4
Robert Ashton, Richard Pitman, and Thomas Birks	3	18	0
	6	11	4

For Absence
from the Na-
tional Worship.

ANNO 1671. On the 25th of the Month called July, for a Meeting at the House of John Willoughby, of Wigtoft, on a pretended Information of a Preacher's

* Several Persons, who had purchased some of Thomas Everett's Goods, were so troubled in Mind that they could not rest till they had restored them to the Owner.

† The said Thomas Summers, for telling the Persons who made the Distress, that they did not act according to Law when they took Goods, which he told them were not his, was prosecuted at the Quarter Sessions, and committed to Prison.

LINCOLN
SHIRE.

1671.

Distresses on
Slender Inform-
ation.

Preachers being there, of which the only Evidence was, that one of the In-
formers heard a Man say, Lord : Goods were taken by Distress

	l.	s.	d.
From William Dixon and William Barrows, to the Value of	13	10	0
Robert Whiteman, John Fotherby, and William Sawyer	5	7	6
Judith Birks, John Willoughby, and Richard Patman	10	18	0
Mary Mitdbell, William Bladesmith, and William Birks	8	13	0
Taken also from Robert Grimboll, Goods worth	10	0	0
	48	8	6

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

ANNO 1672. In September, Robert Reader, of Garthorp, was committed to Prison for Tithes, at the Suit of Robert Barnard Impropiator : In the Month called January, William Bladesmith, of Swineshead, was also imprisoned for Tithes at the Suit of John Newton : And in the same Year Henry Wilson, of Gedney, was committed on a Common Pleas Writ, at the Suit of Peregrine Moore Priest : Also John Potter and William Garland were shut up in Lincoln Castle by an Exchequer Process for Tithes, at the Suit of John Coop a Priest.

Distresses for
not Swearing.

Thomas Scott and Robert Ashton, of Crowle, for refusing to take an Oath, when summoned on a Jury, were fined, the Former 40s. and the Latter 5l. and had taken from them, the Former an Horse worth 6l. and the Latter Goods to the Value of 7l. 10s.

Release of
Prisoners.

In this Year King Charles the Second issued his Letters Patent for discharging out of Prison the Quakers then confined at the King's Suit, by which Ralph Harbottle, John Williamson, Charles Howett, Richard Parnel, William Hagworth-ingham, Roger Williams, William Cliff, William Phillips, and John Bayley, were released from their Imprisonment in Lincoln Castle.

Sundry Prose-
cutions.

ANNO 1673. In the Month called May, Christopher Edwards, Thomas Halifax and John Robinson, all of Epworth, and Richard Parnel, of Haxsey, for refusing to pay Easter-Offerings, were sent to Prison at the Suit of James Gardiner a Priest. Thomas Parnel had taken from him, for Tithes, an Horse, a Colt, four Cows, and two Steers worth 20l. at the Prosecution of William Dorner, Priest of Willingham. Also Robert Grimboll, for the same Cause, had four Steers taken away worth 10l.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

Thomas Scott was this Year again summoned on a Jury, and for refusing to Swear, again fined 5l. for which Goods were taken from him to the Value of 10l. Thomas Pickance and Thomas Humpbry had also their Goods taken by Distress for refusing to Swear ; and Thomas Waddington, because he would not take the Oath of a Churchwarden, was excommunicated.

ANNO 1674. On the 15th of the Month called May, Robert Reader was imprisoned for Tithes, at the Suit of Robert Barnard. In the same Month William Edlington, of Crossland in the Isle of Haxsey, and in the Month called July following, Robert Berrier, of Crowle, were committed to Lincoln Castle, by Writs de Excommunicato capiendo, at the Suit of Edward Coggin and Thomas Poynter Impropiators.

Imprisonments
for trivial
Claims for
Tithes.

On the 17th of the Month called June, Christopher Edwards, John Robinson, and Thomas Halifax, after above a Year's Confinement at Lincoln, were carried up to London, and there committed to the Fleet Prison, at the Suit of James Gardiner Priest of Epworth, whose Demand on all three of them did not amount to more than four Shillings. On the 3d of the Month called August, Thomas Wresle was sent to Prison by an Attachment out of the Exchequer, and in September, James Dixon, of Crowle, was brought Prisoner to Lincoln Castle by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, at the Suit of Solomon Ashburn Priest ; as was also Thomas Everett by the same Writ. On the 8th of October, John Clark, of Garthorp, Matthew Ganmore, and Joane Marshall, of Ludington, Widow, were imprisoned for not paying Easter-Offerings, at the Suit of Thomas Pinder Priest. Taken also about this Time from Edward Cheefman, for Tithes, Goods worth 16l. 19s. 8d. at the Suit of Robert Barnard

Easter-Of-
ferings and
Tithes, &c.

Barnard Impropiator : And from *Thomas Everett*, by *John Towne* Impropiator of *Sudbrook*, Goods to the Value of 10*l*.

Taken also this Year, for refusing to pay Steeple-house Rates, from *William Molls*, *Samuel Trotting*, and *Herbert Ingram*, for 12*s*. demanded, Goods worth 1*l*. 9*s*. And from *Christopher Bavin* Goods worth 2*s*. 8*d*.

Taken likewise for Absence from the National Worship,

From *Richard Burdett*, *James Roper*, and *John Killingley*, Goods worth

John Richardson, *William Massey*, and *Daniel Brittain*

l. s. d.

5 19 6

8 0 0

13 19 6

Distresses for
Absence from
the National
Worship.

George Waters, for attending religious Meetings, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 23*l*. And *Thomas Richardson* and *William Pidd* to the Value of 1*l*. 4*s*.

ANNO 1675. For a Meeting at the House of *Alice Bunbee*, of *Potter-Hanworth*, Widow, were taken by Distress,

From the said Widow *Bunbee*, Cattle worth

Peter Bunbee and *Nicholas Johnson*, to the Value of

l. s. d.

20 0 0

8 0 0

28 0 0

Distresses for
Meeting.

Abraham Morris, of *Lincoln*, Mercer, for being at the same Meeting, was fined 10*l*. for a Preacher, and 5*l*. for himself, for which they took Stuff out of his Shop which cost him 19*l*. 7*s*. 8*d*. He appealed to the Quarter Sessions, but got no Relief.

In this Year *Thomas Everett*, for not paying Tithes, had four Draught-Bullocks taken from him worth 20*l*. And *John Balbeck*, of *Wainfleet*, for refusing to pay toward the Repairing of the Steeple-house, was committed to Prison on a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*.

ANNO 1676. On the 26th of the Month called *March*, *Katharine Cliff* was committed to Prison for Tithe, at the Suit of *John Owberry*, Priest of *Anderby*. On the 8th of the Month called *June*, *Thomas Brown* was sent to Prison for Tithes, at the Suit of *John Hackley*, Priest of *Partney*, and on the 5th of the Month called *July*, *James Watkins* and *John Watkins*, of *Wadington*, were imprisoned at *Lincoln* on a Writ of Rebellion for not paying Tithes, at the Suit of *John Barnard* their Parish Priest.

In this and the preceding Year, several Persons in this County had Corn taken out of their Fields to the Value of 17*l*. 7*s*. 6*d*.

ANNO 1677. About this Time *William Brown* and *Robert Man*, both of *Belton*, were committed to *Lincoln* Castle, at the Suit of the Churchwardens, so called, on a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*. *Thomas Everett* had his Hay taken by one *Wharton*, Priest of *Carlton*, to the Value of 3*l*. and from several others was Corn taken to the Amount of 13*l*. 0*s*. 8*d*.

ANNO 1678. On the 10th of the Month called *August*, *Alice Bellows*, of *Lincoln*, was committed to the Castle there, at the Suit of *John Thomas*, Priest of *Wapload*. And on the 22d of *November*, *Thomas Robinson*, of *Brant-Broughton*, and *Samuel Hall*, were sent to the same Prison at the Suit of *John Chapple* Priest. The said *Thomas Robinson* had also his Cattle taken by Execution to the Value of 15*l*. 15*s*. In this and the preceding Year, Corn was taken from *Thomas Everett* to the Value of 17*l*. 10*s*. And in this Year several other Persons had also their Corn taken away to the Amount of 117*l*. 3*s*. 1*d*. Taken also for Demands of 1*l*. 15*s*. 5*d*. for Steeple-house Rates, from several Persons, Sheep, Hogs, and other Things, worth 8*l*. Also *Thomas Parnel*, for refusing to pay the Parish Clerk's Wages, had an Horse taken from him worth 2*l*. 19*s*.

For Tithes and
Easter-Offer-
ings.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

Imprisonments,
Execution and
Distresses for
Tithes and
other Causes.

LINCOLN-
SHIRE.
1678.

From *Thomas Robinson*, of *Brant-Broughton*, for being at a Meeting at *Beckingham* on the 24th of the First Month 1677-8, were taken four fat Bullocks worth 34*l.* 10*s.* by Warrant from *Christopher Nevil*, of *Harmston*, a Justice of the Peace. And by another Warrant from the same Justice, for a Fine of 40*l.* for another Meeting at the same Place, on the 31st of the First Month 1678, he had taken from him eighteen of his best young Sheep, one Pair of Steers, four Draught-Bullocks, and four fat Bullocks, worth 44*l.* 11*s.* The four fat Bullocks were sold by *Thomas Kelsey* the Constable to *John Cupp* a Butcher, who hearing on what Account they were taken, declined his Bargain. Then all the ten Steers and Bullocks were drove to *Grantham* Market, but no Body would buy them; thence they were driven to *Sleaford*, where one *Parker* bought the four fat Bullocks for 27*l.* but when he understood that they had been taken by the Act, he also threw up his Bargain. Then they drove the Beasts to *Lincoln*, but could find no Chapman, for the People looking on them as the Spoil of Conscience, would not buy them. At length the Constable drove them all to Sir *Christopher Nevil* the Justice, by whose Warrant they had been taken, but he, after keeping them fourteen Days, and finding no Purchaser, and being unwilling to take them himself, restored them to the right Owner, on Consideration that the same or others of like Value would probably be upon the Land at any Time: For he, though willing to execute the Law according to his Office, was of a more generous Disposition than to seek Advantage to himself by the Loss of his Neighbours. The eighteen Sheep worth about 14*l.* were sold privately out of the Market to a poor Man of *Grantham* for 10*l.* 7*s.* The chief Promoter of this Prosecution was *John Chapple*, Priest of *Brant-Broughton*, who perceiving the Constable not forward in making Distresses, and breaking up Meetings, sent him a menacing Letter, viz.

“ *Brant-Broughton*, April 9th, 1678.

Priests Letter
to a Constable.

“ **THOMAS KELSEY,**
“ I CANNOT but wonder that any King's Officer should be so backward in executing the King's Laws, as I find you to be: Methinks you should have gone to Sir *Christopher Nevil*, had you had no other Inducement thereto save only Civility to Sir *Francis Fane*, who desired you so to do: You cannot now, as you did then, pretend the Want of an Horse. I have sent my Man on purpose to join with you in giving Information to the Justices concerning the late Conventicle held at *Broughton*, and if you refuse to act, I have ordered my Man to make his Complaint to the Bench. If your Landlord, Mr. *Pierpoint*, be informed how you and others have behaved your selves in this Business, I know that he will not thank you for your Remissness; for whatever his Tenants at *Broughton* may be, sure I am, he is a Person more zealous for the Church. No more at present, from

“ Your Friend,

“ **JOHN CHAPPLE.**”

Priests excite
Justices to
prosecute.

By such Means as this the Parish Officers were sometimes prompted to act against their own Inclinations, the Priests exciting the Justices to punish by Fines and Imprisonment for Neglect of Duty such of them whose Christian Moderation made them unwilling to prosecute their conscientious Neighbours.

Tithes.

ANNO 1679. In this Year sundry Persons had Corn taken out of their Grounds for Tithe to the Value of 169*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*

On the 13th of the Month called *August*, *William Brown*, of the Isle of *Haxsey*, was carried Prisoner to the Castle at *Lincoln*, at the Suit of *Robert Barnard* Tithe-farmer. On the 16th of *September*, *Thomas Cutforth*, of *Epworth*, was committed to the same Prison, at the Suit of *Richard Horrin*, Priest of *Haxsey*. On the 19th of *November*, *William Smith*, of *Fishtoft*, was also sent to the same Goal, at the Suit of *Joseph Tridell* Tithe-farmer, and on the 27th of

of the Month called January, Robert Killingley was committed thither at the Suit of Michael Mitchel, Priest of Pinchbeck.

LINCOLN-
SHIRE.
1679.

Taken this Year, for not paying Steeple-house Rates, from Eustace Morecroft, and others at Sepsey, Goods worth 4*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*

At the Affizes at Lincoln, in the Month called April this Year, Thomas Swash was convicted on the Statute of 20*l.* per Month for one Month's Absence from the National Worship. And Thomas Billing was prosecuted on the same Statute, and committed to Lincoln Castle.

ANNO 1680. In the Month called May, John Hopkins, of Weston, and Jonab Tilimus, of Marton, for not paying toward the Repairs of the Steeple-house there, were imprisoned by Writs de Excommunicato capiendo. And on the 18th of the next Month, Robert Ashton, Robert Berrier, James Dixon, and Francis Brown, all of the Parish of Crowle in the Isle of Haxsey, were committed to Lincoln Castle for refusing to pay several Sums demanded of them for Wages of the Parish-Clerk, and were continued Prisoners there till the next Affizes. In this Year also John Aystrope was Prisoner in this County on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo.

Steeple-house-
Rates and
Clerk's Wages.

ANNO 1681. Taken, for Tithe of Corn and Pulse, out of their Fields from several Persons in this County, to the Value of 88*l.* 4*s.*

Tithes.

ANNO 1682. In November was a Meeting at a Place called St. Martin's belonging to the Town of Stamford; to which came an Informer, named Hankins, of Market-Deeping, and another Person whom he had hired to assist him. These brought with them some Parish-Officers, and without producing any Warrant carried those that were met before a Justice, and made Oath, that William Collington, of Stamford, preached in that Meeting, when indeed he had not, but the Meeting was held throughout in Silence: However the Justice certified the Mayor of Stamford according to the Information sworn before him, whereupon the Goods of the said William Collington were seized to the Value of 20*l.*

A silent Meet-
ing.

John Whitehead was committed to Prison at Lincoln on the 22d of the third Month 1682, for preaching at an Assembly at the House of Thomas Sowtors in Sutton: At the Affizes on the 31st of the Fifth Month then next following, the Oath of Allegiance was tendered him by the Judge, and he recommitted till the next Affizes, which was on the 5th of the Month called March 1682-3, at which he was indicted, and committed to Prison again under Sentence of Premunire.

Taken this Year from sundry Persons, for Tithe of Corn and other Things, out of the Fields, to the Value of 76*l.* 12*s.*

ANNO 1683. In this Year the Amount of Corn, Pulse, &c. taken out of the Field from several Persons in this County, was 42*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*

Tithes.

Taken from William Hobman, of Phiserton, for 7*s.* 4*d.* demanded for repairing the Steeple-house there, Goods worth 2*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*

Steeple-house-
Rates.

Jane Redsmith, a poor Widow, for a Meeting at her House in Stamford, had all her Goods taken from her to the Value of 10*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*

Distresses.

Taken also from William Collington and Elizabeth Moll, for being at the same Meeting, Goods worth

Taken by Distress, for a Meeting at the House of Francis Brown, of Crowle, a Mare, two Cows with Calves, ten Quarters of Malt, and other Corn, to the Value of

10	15	0
16	15	2
<hr/>		
27	10	2

Taken also for Absence from the National Worship, from William Brown, Jane Davis, Edward Cheesman, and John Pilsworth, Goods worth 2*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* And from Joseph Medly, William Ashby, William Yates, and John Eldridge, to the Value of 1*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*

Thomas Heads, of Thurlby, had his Goods seized several Times for frequenting religious Meetings: At length for a Meeting at his House on the 24th of

Sufferings of
T. Heads and
others.

LINCOLN-
SHIRE.
1683.

For Tithes.

For Sunday
Shillings, so
called.

Ecclesiastical
Process.

At a Meeting
for Care of
the Poor.

J. White-
head fined
for Preaching.

Distresses for
the same
Meeting.

the Month called *June*, the Officers took all the Household Goods he had left, worth about 30s. and so exceedingly rigid were they in the Seizure, that they pulled the Bedclothes away from under his Wife then lying in with Child. They came several Times after to search for more Goods, but finding none, went their Way dissatisfied, muttering to themselves the old Proverb, *Where nothing is to be had, the King must lose his Right*. Taken also for Meetings at several Times, from *Joseph Lee*, of *Boven*, Goods worth 1l. 18s. 6d. From *John Milner*, of *South-Wilham*, a Cow, Sheep, and other Things, to the Value of 7l. 10s. And from *William Rant*, of *Swineshead*, seven Beasts worth 14l.

ANNO 1684. Taken this Year, for Tithe, out of the Fields from several Persons, Corn, Pulse, &c. to the Value of 51l. 0s. 6d.

On the 19th of the Month called *April*, *Samuel Everett*, *William Brown*, *Robert Killingley*, *Thomas Wresle*, and *Thomas Robinson*, were Prisoners in *Lincoln Castle* for not paying Tithes; also *John Baldock*, *James Dixon*, *Edward Cheesman*, *John Aystrope*, *Robert Everett*, and *William Turner*, imprisoned on Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*, for refusing to pay Tithes and Steeple-house Rates: And *Thomas Atkins*, *Polyxena Hicks*, *Thomas Stubbs*, *Edward Hairby*, *Richard Page*, and *Daniel Page*, who having been taken at their religious Meetings, were sent to Prison by an Order of Sessions. *John Toobit* was at the same Time a Prisoner on the Statute of 20l. per Month for 100l. for five Months Absence from the National Worship.

In this Year also, for Weekly Fines of 1s. called *Sunday Shillings*, imposed for Absence from the *Parish-Church*, were taken from *Thomas Heads*, *John Milner*, *John Simson*, *Robert Parkinson*, and *Elizabeth Sugden*, Goods and Apparel worth 4l. 9s. 6d. This *Elizabeth Sugden* was a poor Servant, from whom they took her best Clothes worth 16s.

On the 15th of the Month called *June*, *Richard Darking*, *Thomas Clifton*, and *Richard Grantham*, all of *Gedney*, were cited into the Ecclesiastical Court, at the Suit of *Augustin Finch*, Priest of *Gedney*, and they not appearing, the Court certified Sir *John Oldfield* and *Walter Johnson* Justices, of their Contempt, who thereupon committed them to the House of Correction at *Spalding*.

On the 3d of the Month called *July* was a Meeting for Church-Affairs, such as providing for the Poor, and the like good Offices, at the House of *Joane Wray*, of *Fulbeck*, Widow: Intelligence was given of this Meeting to Justice *Thorold*, of *Grantham*, by a rambling Woman, who used to stroll about the Country begging, and blowing an Horn. Upon this *Beldam's* Information the said Justice *Thorold* and *Christopher Berisford*, of *Lednam*, another Justice, came to the Meeting and found *John Whitehead* exhorting his Friends to Charity and Liberality, suitable to the Occasion of their Meeting. The Justices took the Names of most that were present, and fined them, for which Fines Justice *Thorold* granted Warrants of Distress, by which the Officers took

		l.	s.	d.
From	<i>Joane Wray</i> , ten Beasts and thirty eight Sheep worth	41	0	0
	<i>Thomas Robinson</i> , of <i>Brant-Broughton</i> , two Steers	9	0	0
	<i>John Richardson</i> , of <i>Hough</i> , Corn worth	5	5	0
	<i>John Whaley</i> , of <i>Normington</i> , a Pair of Oxen	7	0	0
	<i>Henry Pickworth</i> , of <i>Sleesford</i> , Goods worth	6	0	0
	<i>Thomas Everett</i> , of <i>Haverholm</i> , Pewter	0	8	0
	<i>Thomas Everett</i> , <i>Anne Frotheringham</i> , <i>Joseph Frother-</i>	2	15	2
	<i>ingham</i> , <i>William Bunby</i> , and <i>William Hobman</i>			
	<i>John Killingley</i> , <i>John Green</i> , and <i>William Gabitas</i>	1	5	0

72 13 2

The Beasts and Sheep taken from *Joane Wray* were driven from Market to Market, but no Body would buy them: At length one *Edward Wright* redeemed them by paying the Fine of 20l. without her Knowledge.

John

John Frotheringham was committed to Prison by a Sessions Process against him, for Absence from the National Worship.

On the 19th of the Month called *April* this Year, *John Whitehead* was imprisoned under Sentence of *Premunire* for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, and *Thomas Hooton* was for the same Cause sent to Prison by an Order of Sessions.

Thomas Heads, for refusing to Swear that his Mother was buried in Woolen, though he offered to have affirmed the same, was fined, and had taken from him a Cow and other Things to the Value of 3*l.* 10*s.*

On the 19th of the Month called *July*, *Mary Waterman*, of *Stegness*, Widow, was taken Prisoner by an Attachment for Tithes, at the Suit of *Thomas Tomson* Priest, and on the 17th of *October* following was removed to *Lincoln* Castle.

On the 4th of the Month called *January*, *John Ingram*, of *Cubet* in *Holland*, was taken by a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, and committed to *Lincoln* Castle for refusing to pay 9*d.* toward the Repairs of the Steeple-house at *Weston*: And *Thomas Orslyn* was also committed at the same Time for 4*d.* demanded for the same Use. Likewise *William Turner*, who was then in Prison, had four Beasts taken from him by the Wardens of *Anderly*, valued at 7*l.*

ANNO 1685. About the 12th of the Month called *April*, *Thomas Toinby* and *Joseph Frotheringham*, with *William Hobman*, were taken at a religious Meeting, and sent to Prison by the Mayor and Recorder of *Waddington*. Also *Richard Stanly*, *Robert Stanly*, *James Watkins*, and *Thomas Archer*, for being at the same Meeting, had their Names given in to the Mayor, who sent Soldiers for them, and committed them to Prison. At the Sessions not long after they were indicted for a Riot, fined and sent back to Prison. But *William Hobman* and *Thomas Toinby* were set at Liberty upon some of their Relations paying their Fines.

On the 20th of *September*, *Henry Clipson*, a Justice's Clerk, came to the Meeting-house at *Tanby-Woodside*, when the Meeting was ended, some of the Assembly being on the Road homeward, and others with their Horses in their Hands ready to depart; *Clipson* finding no Body in the House was in a Rage, calling them *Rogues* and *Whores*, and desperately swore that there had been a Conventicle, and that he would make Oath of it before his Master, and accordingly did so: His Master, *John Bond*, a Justice, lately put into Commission, took his Clerk's Oath of what he had not seen, and thereupon convicted several Persons, and granted Warrants for Distresses, which he charged the Officers to return in three or four Days at farthest: By those Warrants were taken,

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>Thomas Brown</i> , of <i>Partney</i> , thirty one Sheep worth	17	0	0
<i>John Burton</i> , an Ewe worth	0	15	0
<i>George Baslington</i> , of <i>Spilsby</i> , Wool worth	3	1	4
<i>Thomas Stubbs</i> , Household Goods, &c. worth	6	0	0
<i>Abraham Screm</i> , two Horses, a Swine, and Pewter	6	5	0
<i>Robert Brown</i> , for 5 <i>s.</i> Fine, an Horse worth	5	0	0
	38	1	4

Upon the Information of the afore said *Clipson*, and one *Joseph Harrison* his Associate, of another Meeting at the same Place, whither they came cursing and swearing, the said Justice granted another Warrant on the 18th of *October*, by which were taken,

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>Thomas Stubbs</i> , a Cow, an Hog, Glaziers Tools, and other Things, to the Value of	19	3	8
<i>William Stanley</i> , a Mare worth	8	0	0
<i>Thomas Brown</i> , a Mare worth	5	0	0

LINCOLN-SHIRE.
1684.

J. Whitehead
premunired.

For refusing to
Swear.

Attachment.

Imprisonment
on a Writ de
Excom. Cap.

Prosecutions
for Meeting.

Random In-
formation of
a Justice's
Clerk.

Distresses.

Cursing and
Swearing In-
formers.

Distresses.

LINCOLN-SHIRE.

1685.

From *Abraham Screm*, Goods worth

Robert Brown, a Bed, Bedding, Tables, Pewter,
and other Goods, worth

Brought over

l. s. d.

32 3 8

10 0 0

5 10 0

47 13 8

Seizure of
working Tools.

A Neighbour of *Thomas Stubbs*, seeing him deprived of his working Tools, to prevent his total Ruin, after the Officer had sold many of his Goods, purchased the Remainder for 2*l.* 10*s.* and returned to *Stubbs* his working Tools, bidding him *make Use of them*. For such was the Inhumanity of his Prosecutors, that they would have bereft him of the Means of getting his Bread.

The Fences of
a Burying-
ground de-
molished.

About this Time also, the *Parish-Officers*, of *Tanby*, came to the Burying-ground adjoining to the Meeting-house there, and, by an Order from the said Justice *Bond*, fold the Pales and Posts, which fenced in the Ground; to one *Ambrose Elberington*, who, with his Servant and a Carpenter, carried them away, to the Loss of 12*l.* which they cost: So they left the Burying-ground open and exposed to the Beasts, or to the Rudeness of Persons more inhuman, usually attending on such mischievous Occasions. They also took from a poor Woman, who dwelt in the Meeting-house, and was maintained by Charity, all the Goods she had, worth about 15*s.* So that upon the Oaths of those two wicked Informers, *Clipson* and *Harrison*, swearing there were Meetings where they saw none, and that there was Preaching where they did not hear any, Justice *Bond* caused to be taken away as many Cattle and Goods as were computed to be worth 110*l.* 14*s.*

Distresses on
random Evi-
dence.Imprison-
ments.

In this Year also, *Benjamin Coggan*, of *Epworth*, was committed to *Lincoln Castle*, being arrested by a *Quitam Writ*, at the King's Suit, for 200*l.* for ten Months Absence from the *Parish-Church*. Also *Thomas Richardson*, *John Richardson*, *Edward Willey*, *Ralph Bucknell*, and *John Leeman*, were imprisoned by Order of Sessions, for Absence from the publick Worship, but at a subsequent Sessions that Order was annulled. In this Year *Edward Cheesman* died a Prisoner, having been long confined by a *Writ de Excommunicato capiendo*.

Tithes.

ANNO 1686. In this and the next preceding Year, were taken, for Tithes, out of the Fields from several Persons, Corn, Pulse, &c. to the Value of 120*l.* 19*s.*

At a Quarter Sessions at *Spalding*, on the 14th of the Month called *January*, *Stephen Willoughby*, *John Winkley*, *John Ingram*, *Thomas Orslin*, *Thomas Summers*, *Robert Killingley*, and *Isaac Langstaff*, were committed to Prison upon Presentments, for Absence from their *Parish-Church*.

ANNO 1687. Taken in this Year, for Tithes of Corn, Hay, &c. out of the Fields of several Persons, to the Value of 55*l.* 4*s.*

Commitment
of T. Brown.

On the 26th of the Month called *April* this Year, *Thomas Brown*, of *Hartney*, was committed to *Lincoln Castle* by the following Warrant, viz.

“ To the Constables of *Hartney*, &c.

“ *Lincoln-Lindsey*.

His Warrant.

“ WE *Samuel Fuller* Dr. of Divinity, and *Nicholas Smith* Esq; two of his
“ Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said Parts and County,
“ whereof one is of the *Quorum*, having received Information from the Wor-
“ shipful *William Foster* Dr. of Laws, and Vicar-general, and Official Principal
“ of the Right Reverend Father in God *Thomas*, by divine Permission Lord
“ Bishop of *Lincoln*, a competent Judge in that Behalf lawfully constituted,
“ by a certain Instrument or Writing under the Seal of his Office, That *Tho-*
“ *mas Brown*, of *Hartney* aforesaid, in the said Parts and County, Miller, hath
“ been duly summoned to appear before him the said *William Foster*, or his
lawful

“lawful Surrogate, in the Consistory Court of the blessed Virgin *Mary*, of
 “*Lincoln*, upon a certain Day to the said *Thomas Brown* assigned, and long
 “since past, to answer *Francis Garthside* Clerk, Rector of the Rectory and
 “Parish-Church of *Hartney* afore said, in a certain Cause of Substraction of
 “Tithes and Offerings, and other Duties of Holy-Church, which Summons
 “he out of Contumacy and Obstinacy hath not obeyed; but in such his
 “Disobedience and Contumacy doth hitherto persist, in manifest Contempt
 “of his Majesty’s Ecclesiastical Laws: And Request being made to us to assist
 “and aid the Vicar-general, and Official Principal, and his Surrogate, to order
 “and reform the said *Thomas Brown* in the Cause before rehearsed, according
 “to the Power and Authority to us given by Virtue of an Act of Parliament
 “in that Behalf; We his Majesty’s Justices, whereof one is of the *Quorum* as
 “afore said, do hereby charge and command you, and every of you, to attach,
 “or cause to be attached the said *Thomas Brown*, against whom such Infor-
 “mation hath been given and Request made: And that you convey the said
 “*Thomas Brown* to his Majesty’s Goal at the Castle of *Lincoln*, there to remain
 “without Bail or Mainprize, until he the said *Thomas Brown* shall have found
 “sufficient Sureties to be bound before some of the King’s most honourable
 “Privy-Council, or some Justice of the Peace for the said Parts and County,
 “to the Use of our Sovereign Lord the King, to give due Obedience to the
 “Process, Proceedings, and Sentences of the said Ecclesiastical Court, wherein
 “the said Suit or Matter for the Premises doth depend and is. And the
 “Goaler of his Majesty’s said Goal at the Castle of *Lincoln* is hereby required
 “to receive the said *Thomas Brown* into his said Prison, and him there safely
 “to keep accordingly. Given under our Hands and Seals at *Lincoln* the first
 “Day of *April*, in the third Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord *James*
 “the Second, King over England, &c. 1687.

LINCOLN-
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“SAMUEL FULLER,
 “NICHOLAS SMITH.”

Thus was *Thomas Brown* become a Prisoner without any Prospect of being
 discharged, the original Cause of his Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical Court
 being for Tithes, with the Payment of which he could not in Conscience
 comply. About the same Time *William Bladefsmith* and *William Birks* were
 committed to the same Prison by Attachments out of the *Exchequer* for Tithes,
 at the Suit of *John Fleck*, Bayliff to Sir *John Newton*: And in the same Year
Samuel Everett was also imprisoned there for the same Cause, at the Suit of
John Towne, of *Sudbrook*, Impropriator.

Attachments.

We mentioned before, in the Year 1684, the Imprisonment of *Mary Water-*
man, and her Removal afterward to *Lincoln* Castle: We shall next insert a
 Paper written this Year, being as follows, viz.

“A TRUE RELATION of the Sufferings and Death of *Mary Water-*
 “man, of *Stegness* in the County of *Lincoln*, Widow, who died
 “in Prison at *Lincoln* the 19th Day of the Second Month called
 “April 1687, for her Testimony against Tithes.

“AFTER some vexatious Proceedings in the County Court, by *Thomas*
 “*Tomson*, Priest of *Stegness*, against the said *Mary Waterman*, and *Peter*
 “*Waterman* her eldest Son, who was joined Executor to her Husband’s last
 “Will, because for Conscience sake they could not give him Tithes: The
 “said Priest caused to be taken away from them Goods to the Value of
 “about 20*l.* by a *Distingas*, but this Proceeding being contrary to Law, they
 “got those Goods again with much Charge: After which, *Peter* her eldest Son
 “died,

A Narrative
of the Death
of M. Water-
man, and the
Cause of it.

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" died, whilst the abovesaid Priest prosecuted the said *Peter* and *Mary Water-*
 " *man* in the *Exchequer* for the same Cause, and after his Death, the said *Mary*,
 " by an Attachment, was taken Prisoner, at the said Priest's Suit, the 19th
 " Day of the Fifth Month 1684, by *John Chambers* and *William Richardson*
 " Bayliffs, and by them kept Prisoner at *Orby* and at *Alford* till the 17th
 " Day of the eighth Month in the same Year, and then brought to *Lincoln*
 " Castle by the same Warrant, by the Procurement of the said Priest, where
 " she was detained till the Goaler was encouraged to give her some Liberty
 " by the King's Proclamation. But the Priest by his Attorney threatening the
 " Sheriff and Goaler, she was remanded to Prison again, and then by a se-
 " cond Attachment, bearing Date the 19th Day of the Fifth Month 1686,
 " which was delivered to the Goaler by *John Chambers* Bayliff, she being in
 " Custody upon the Former, which it seems they found was weakned by
 " Contempts being pardoned, and from that Time she was kept more close
 " by the Procurement of the said Priest: So being in a smoaky Room she
 " grew weaker and weaker, till she died the 19th of the Second Month 1687,
 " often in her Sicknes thanking God, who strengthened her to give up her
 " Life for her Testimony against Tithes.
 " And that the aforesaid Priest might totally ruin her and her Family, he
 " also prosecuted *Robert Waterman*, her second Son, who was with her as a
 " Servant, and managed her Business, and by an Attachment out of the *Ex-*
 " *chequer* upon the 16th of the Sixth Month 1686, the said *Robert* was arrested,
 " and brought Prisoner to his Mother in *Lincoln* Castle the 17th of the same
 " Month, though he was not joint Executor with her, and therefore not
 " concerned to pay the Priest Tithes. But through the Mercy of the Sheriff
 " and the Goaler he had some Liberty to go Home and order his Business."

The hard Usage and Death of the said *Mary Waterman* induced *John White-*
head, some Time her Fellow-prisoner, to write to her Prosecutor, the Priest of
Stegnesh, as follows, viz.

Letter of J.
Whitehead
to the Priest
of Stegnesh.

" Friend THOMAS TOMSON,

" I THOUGHT good hereby to let thee know that *Mary Waterman*,
 " that desolate Widow, whom thou hast been long pursuing with one
 " vexatious Suit after another, died the 19th Day of this Month, being kept
 " close at thy Suit. Therefore search and see, whether in thy Skirts will not
 " be found her Blood, when the Lord shall make Inquisition, and give that
 " heavy Doom mentioned in *Mat. xxv. 41.* to the End of the Chapter, on
 " those that have not visited his Servants in Prison. O! where wilt thou ap-
 " pear in that Day, who didst keep that innocent Woman in Prison for Tithes,
 " or to which of the Saints wilt thou turn, to find an Example for thy horrid
 " Actions. None of the Priests under the Law, except those two wicked
 " Sons of *Eli*, *Hophni* and *Phineas*, which both fell in one Day, did ever
 " force their Maintenance. And among the Ministers of the Gospel, which
 " Christ sent forth, and said, *Freely you have received, freely give*, Tithes nor
 " forced Maintenance was not so much as mentioned to be received for several
 " Ages. Therefore be ashamed of thy Wickedness and Hardness of Heart,
 " and repent whilst the Lord gives thee Time and Space, that this thine Ini-
 " quity may be blotted out, which is the Desire of

" Thy Soul's Friend,

Written the 26th Day of
the Second Month 1687.

" JOHN WHITEHEAD.

" P. S. And let thy Repentance be manifest
 " by discharging her Son *Robert*, who hath
 " been wrongfully detained by thee, though
 " not joined Executor with his Mother."

Our

Our Records do not mention how long the said *Robert Waterman* continued in Prison after his Mother's Decease.

In this Year were taken, for not paying Steeple-house Rates, from *Thomas Brown, Thomas Richardson, and John Richardson* his Son, Goods to the Value of 4*l.* 18*s.*

ANNO 1688. Taken this Year out of the Fields for Tithes of Grain, Hay, and other Things, from sundry Persons, to the Value of 89*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*

ANNO 1689. On the 16th of the Month called *July*, *John Milner*, of *South-Wubam*, as he was fetching Home his Hay, was met by *Francis Whiting*, Priest of that Place, who, not having got so much for his Tithe as he intended, did beat the said *John Milner* with a Stick very cruelly: On the 31st of the same Month, as he was binding his Hay, the Priest came to him again, and beat him unmercifully: He did also beat the said *John Milner* at several other Times with much Cruelty, so that he was disabled to go about his Business, and obliged to lie by it a Quarter of a Year together, by which he sustained great Loss and Damage: After all these Abuses, which the innocent Man bore with Patience, and avenged not himself, but committed his Cause to him who judges righteously, the Priest cited him into the Ecclesiastical Court, where he appeared several Times, and as often complained to them of the Abuses he had suffered, but to no Purpose.

We find that in this Year the Corn taken from several Persons in this County for Tithes, amounted to 100*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*

ANNO 1690. In the Month called *May*, *John Clark* was committed to *Lincoln Castle* by a Common-Pleas Writ for Tithes of Hemp, Flax, Pigs, Hens, Apples, &c. at the Suit of *Thomas Pinder*, Merchant in *London*, Son and Executor to a Priest of the same Name.

In this Year also, the Tithe of Grain, taken from this People in this County, amounted to the Sum of 103*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Having thus described the Sufferings in this County within the Years proposed; we proceed to the City of *London* and County of *Middlesex*.

C H A P. XXV. L O N D O N and M I D D L E S E X.

ANNO 1655.

ONE of the earliest Sufferers in the City of *London* was *Anne Downer*, a Maiden about thirty Years of Age, the first Person of that Sex who preached publicly in that City: She, for some Expressions against the Preacher who officiated at the Steeple-house in *Stepney*, was committed to the House of Correction, and detained there ten Weeks, and because she refused to work, was beaten with a Rope's End. She was a Woman of excellent Endowments, and became exceeding serviceable in religious Society, a Mother in the Church, fitly qualified to exhort others, and remarkably exemplary in her Christian Care over Persons in Sicknes and Poverty.

In the same Year *George Bayly*, for speaking to the People in the Steeple-house of the Parish called *St. Giles's* in the Fields, after the Priest had ended

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his

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1687.

Steeple-house
Rates.
Tithes.

J. Milner
beaten by a
Priest; which
he bore pa-
tiently, not
seeking Re-
venge.

Tithes.

Imprisonment
of J. Clark.

Tithes.

LONDON,
&c.
1655.

Suffering of
A. Downer.

Imprisonment
of G. Bayly
and others.

LONDON, his Sermon and Prayer, was sent to *New-Prison*, and three Days after removed to *Newgate*, where he lay three Weeks till the Sessions, when no Accuser appeared against him, and the Court seemed willing to discharge him, but demanded of him a *Submission and Acknowledgement of his Offence*. He answered, that *he could not do so without Hypocrisy, because his Conscience did not accuse him of any Offence*. This *innocent Boldness* they called *Obstinacy*, and thereupon required Sureties of his good Behaviour, for refusing which, they sent him to *Bridewell*, where he was above ten Weeks. About the same Time *Ruth Hill, William Markswell, and William Robinson*, were also committed to the House of Correction, for their Christian Concern to exhort the People when assembled in the Places of publick Worship.

Rigorous Sentence against J. Naylor.

His remarkable Patience.

ANNO 1656. In this Year a most rigorous Sentence was pronounced against *James Naylor* by Authority of Parliament, and most severely executed, the Particulars of which we forbear to mention, in regard that *Naylor* was, in respect to the Cause of those Sufferings, censured by the Generality of those of his own Perswasion, and it is credibly reported, was warned by *George Fox* himself of the Danger of his Condition: Howbeit, it was very observable, that *Naylor* endured his extreme Punishment with a Patience astonishing to the Beholders: And many were of Opinion, that had not the *Blindness* of their Zeal who condemned him, been at least equal to the *Blackness* of his Guilt, a Punishment much more moderate might have sufficed. In Justice to that unhappy Sufferer, and to shew the Motives upon which he was, as a sincere Penitent, afterward reconciled again to his Friends, we insert the Copy of

A Paper of JAMES NAYLOR, written by Way of Recantation

after his Fall and Sufferings.

His Recantation.

“GLORY to God Almighty who ruleth in the Heavens, and in whose
“Hands are all the Kingdoms of the Earth, who raiseth up and casteth
“down at his Will, who hath Ways to confound the Exaltation of Man, and
“to chastise his Children, and to make Man know himself to be as Grass
“before him, whose Judgments are above the highest of Men, and his Pity
“reaches the deepest Misery: And the Arm of his Mercy is underneath, to
“lift up the Prisoner out of the Pit, and to save such as trust in him from
“the great Destruction, which vain Man through his Folly brings on himself,
“who hath delivered my Soul out of Darknes, and made Way for my Freedom
“out of the Prison-house, and ransomed me from the great Captivity;
“who divides the Sea before him, and removes the Mountains out of his Way,
“in the Day when he takes upon him to deliver the Oppressed out of the
“Hand of him that is too mighty for him in the Earth: Let his Name be
“exalted for ever, and let all Flesh fear before him, whose Breath is Life to
“his own, but a consuming Fire to the Adversary.

“And to the Lord Jesus Christ be everlasting Dominion upon Earth, and
“his Kingdom above all the Powers of Darknes, even that Christ of whom
“the Scriptures declare, which was, and is, and is to come, the Light of the
“World to all Generations, of whose Coming I testify, with the rest of the
“Children of Light, begotten of the immortal Seed, whose Truth and Virtue
“now shine in the World, unto the Righteousness of eternal Life, and is the
“Saviour of all that believe therein, who hath been the Rock of my Salvation,
“and his Spirit hath given Quietness and Patience to my Soul in deep
“Affliction, even for his Name's Sake. Praises for ever.

“But condemned for ever be all those false Worshipps with which any have
“idolized my Person in the Night of my Temptation, when the Power of
“Darknes was above; all their casting off their Clothes in the Way, their
“Bowings, and Singings, and all the rest of those wild Actions, which did
“any Way tend to dishonour the Lord, or draw the Mind of any from the
“Measure of Christ Jesus in themselves, to look at Flesh, which is Grass,
“or

“ or to ascribe that to the Visible which belongs to Christ Jesus. All that I
“ condemn, by which the pure Name of the Lord hath been any Way blas-
“ phemed through me in that Time of Temptation, or the Spirits of any
“ People grieved that truly love the Lord Jesus throughout the whole World,
“ of what Sort soever.

LONDON,
8^{ca}
1656.

“ This Offence I confess, which hath been Sorrow of Heart, that the Enemy
“ of Man's Peace in Christ should get this Advantage in the Night of my
“ Trial, to stir up Wrath and Offences in the Creation of God, a Thing the
“ Simplicity of my Heart did not intend, the Lord knows, who in his
“ endless Love hath given me Power over it to condemn it: And also that
“ Letter sent me to *Exeter*, by *John Stranger*, when I was in Prison, with
“ these Words, *Thy Name shall be no more James Naylor, but Jesus*. This I
“ judge to be written from the Imaginations, and a Fear struck me when I
“ first saw it; and so I put it into my Pocket, close, and not intending any
“ should see it; which they finding on me, spread it abroad, which the Sim-
“ plicity of my Heart never owned: So this I deny also, that the Name of
“ *Christ Jesus* is received instead of the Name *James Naylor*, or be ascribed
“ to him; for the Name is to the promised Seed to all Generations, and he
“ that hath the Son, hath the Name, which is Life and Power, the Salvation
“ and the Unction, into which Name all the Children of the Light are bap-
“ tized: So the Name of *Christ* I confess before Men, but not according to
“ Men; which Name to me hath been a strong Tower in the Night and in
“ the Day.

“ And this is the Name of *Jesus Christ*, which I confess, the Son and the
“ Lamb, the promised Seed, where he speaks, in Male or Female; but who
“ hath not this in himself hath not Life, neither can have by idolizing any
“ Person, or the Person of any Flesh; but in whom the Heir is born, and
“ hath spoken or doth speak, there he must not be denied the Mouth to
“ speak by, who is Head over all, and in all his own, God blessed for ever.

“ And all those ranting wild Spirits, which then gathered about me in the
“ Time of Darknes, and all their wild Actions and wicked Words against
“ the Honour of God, and his pure Spirit and People, I deny the Spirit, the
“ Power, the Works thereof, and as far as I gave Advantage through want of
“ Judgment, for that evil Spirit in any to arise, I take Shame to my self
“ justly, having formerly had Power over that Spirit in Judgment and Dis-
“ cerning where ever it was; which Darknes came over me through want of
“ Watchfulness and Obedience to the pure Eye of God, and diligent minding
“ the Reproof of Life, which condemns the adulterous Spirit: So the Adver-
“ sary got Advantage, who ceases not to seek to devour, and being taken
“ Captive from the true Light, I was walking in the Night where none can
“ work, as a wandering Bird fit for the Prey. And if the Lord of all my
“ Mercies had not rescued me, I had perished; for I was as one appointed to
“ Death and Destruction, and there was none could deliver me.

“ And this I confess, that God may be justified in his Judgment, and
“ magnified in his Mercies without End, who did not forsake his Captive in
“ the Night, even when his Spirit was daily provoked and grieved, but hath
“ brought me forth to give Glory to his Name for ever. And it is in my
“ Heart to confess to God, and before Men, my Folly and Offence in that
“ Day. Yet was there many Things formed against me at that Day, to take
“ away my Life, of which I am not guilty at all, as if I had committed
“ Adultery with some of those Women who came with me from *Exeter* Prison,
“ and also those who were with me at *Bristol* the Night before I suffered there:
“ Of both which Accusations I am clear before God, who kept me in that
“ Day, both in Thought and Deed, clear as to all Women as a little Child,
“ God is my Record. And this I mention in particular, (hearing of some
“ who still cease not to reproach therewith God's Truth and People) that the
“ Mouth of Enmity may be shut from evil Speaking, though this touch not
“ my Conscience.

“ Also

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&c.
1656.

“ Also that Report, as though I had raised *Dorcas Erbury* from Death :
“ This I deny also, and condemn that Testimony to be out of the Truth,
“ though that Power that quickens the Dead I deny not, which is the Word
“ of Eternal Life.

“ And this I give forth, that it may go as far as the Offence against the
“ Spirit of Truth hath gone abroad, that all Burdens may be taken off with
“ the Truth, and the Truth cleared thereby, and the true Light and all that
“ walk therein, and the Deeds of Darkness condemned, and that all that are
“ in Darkness may not act in the Night, but stay upon God who dwells in
“ the Light, who with the Workers of Iniquity hath no Fellowship, which had
“ I done, when first Darkness came upon me, and not been led by others,
“ I had not run against that Rock to be broken, which so long had borne me,
“ and of whom I had so largely drunken, and of which I now drink in
“ Measure, to whom be the Glory of all, and to him must every Tongue
“ confess, as Judge and Saviour, God over all, blessed for ever.

“ And this farther is given me to say to every particular Person, to whom
“ this Writing shall come : Whatever is thy Condition, wait in the Light
“ which lets thee see it, there is thy Counsel, and thy Strength to be received,
“ to stay thee, and to recover thee. Art thou tempted to sin ? Abide in that
“ which lets thee see it, that there thou mayst come to feed on the right Body,
“ and not on the Temptation ; for if thou mindest the Temptation, it will
“ overcome thee, but in the Light is Salvation. Or having sinned, art thou
“ tempted to despair, or to destroy thy self ? Mind not the Temptation, for
“ ’tis Death that Sin hath brought forth ; feed not on it nor mind it, lest thou
“ eatest Condemnation, for that’s the wrong Body.

“ The Body of Christ is felt in the Light, in which is Life from Death,
“ Grace and Truth to feed on, which will overcome for thee, being followed ;
“ but if thou followest the Temptation, Fear and Condemnation will swallow
“ thee up. If there appear unto thee Voices, Visions, and Revelations, feed
“ not thereon, but abide in the Light, and feel the Body of Christ, and there
“ wilt thou receive Faith and Power to judge of every Appearance and
“ Spirits, the Good to hold fast and obey, and the Bad to resist. Art thou
“ in Darkness ? Mind it not, for if thou dost, it will fill thee more ; but
“ stand still and act not, and wait in Patience till Light arise out of Darkness
“ to lead thee. Art thou wounded in Conscience ? Feed not there, but abide
“ in the Light, which leads to the Grace and Truth, which teaches to deny
“ and put off the Weight, and removes the Cause, and brings saving Health
“ to Light : Yea, this I say to thee in the Name of *Jesus Christ*, that though
“ thou hast made thy Grave as deep as the Nethermost Hell, or were thy
“ Afflictions as great as *Job’s*, and thy Darkness as the Depth of the Sea, yet if
“ thou wilt not run to vain Helps as I have done, but stay upon the Lord,
“ till he give thee Light by his Word (who commanded Light to shine out
“ of Darkness) from thence will he bring thee forth, and his Eye shall
“ guide thee, and thou shalt praise his Name, as I do this Day : Glory for
“ evermore. And this Word is nigh thee, which must give thee Light,
“ though Darkness comprehends it not. And hadst thou Gifts, Revelations,
“ Knowledge, Wisdoms, or whatever thou canst read of in the Scriptures of
“ Truth, and dost not abide in the Light, and feed on the Body of Christ,
“ whence the Gifts spring, but feed on the Gift, thou mayst be up for a
“ while in thy own Sight, but certainly thou wilt wither and die to God, and
“ Darkness will come upon thee, and thy Food will turn to thy Condemnation
“ in the Sight of God.

“ And this I have learned in the Deeps and in Secret, when I was alone,
“ and now declare openly in the Day of my Mercy, Glory to the Highest for
“ evermore, who hath thus far set me free to praise his Righteousness and
“ his Mercy : And to the Eternal, Invisible, Pure God, over all, be Fear,
“ Obedience and Glory, evermore. *Amen.*

“ JAMES NAYLOR.”

Thus *Naylor*, after his lamentable Fall, whence his Adversaries took Advantage against him, was by the Mercy of God preserved through terrible Afflictions, and restored to a true Sense of Religion, wherein he continued the Remainder of his Days.

ANNO 1658. In this Year the following Persons, for refusing to pay Tithes, were Prisoners in the Fleet at London, viz.

Alexander Heblethwaite, *James Corney*, and *Richard Robinson*, who had then continued there two Years: *Gerard Roberts* four Months: *David Hall* twenty one Months: *William Clater* twenty three Months: *Henry Gill* six Months: *William Glidwell* and *Andrew Smith* seven Months: *John Adams* four Months: Also *Giles Shurmer* and *Stephen Hart*.

John Askew was prosecuted in Chancery for not paying Tithes; and because he scrupled to employ an Attorney in his Cause, was committed to Prison.

Elizabeth Peacock, being under a religious Concern of Mind, went into the Savoy Steeple-house in the Strand, and there began to testify to the People; that their Prayers and solemn Assemblies were displeasing to God; but a broken and contrite Spirit he would not despise: She was presently interrupted, and not suffered to proceed, for they drew her out, and had her before a Justice, who committed her to the Gate-house: After ten Days she was indicted at the Sessions, found guilty, and sentenced to Bridewell for two Months. That Time being expired, she went again to the same Place, and testified as before, and was again sent by the same Justice to the Gate-house, where she lay seven Weeks till the Sessions, when no Evidence appearing against her, she was discharged. Not long after this she went to Whitehall Chappel, where *Richard Cromwell* then was, but attempting to speak, she was carried to the Guard, and from thence to the Gate-house, where she continued a Prisoner six Weeks.

ANNO 1659. On the 8th of the Month called May, *John Tyfoe*, being at a Meeting in Brentford, fell under a great Concern of Mind to go to the Steeple-house there, where he began to exhort the People to Repentance, and the Fear of the Lord, but met with undeserved Returns for his Christian Counsel; they falling furiously upon him, pulled him about, thrust him, and rent his Clothes, stopping his Mouth with their Hands, and dragging him by the Hair of his Head, cried Kill him, kill him: After which they put his Legs into the Stocks, and left him lying there with his Head and Shoulders on the Ground; and at last had him before a Justice, who committed him to Newgate.

Daniel Baker, for speaking some of the Prophets Words, and reproving the Pride and Vanity of the People on the Day of the Lord Mayor's Show, at the Mayor's Gate, was sent Prisoner to the Poultry-Counter.

About this Time also, *John Gould*, *Matthew Thomas*, *Luke Howard*, *Richard Greenway*, *Humphry Woolrich*, *Luke Herbert*, *Benjamin Wallis*, *Thomas Marford*, *John Birstow*, *Hester Biddle*, *Anne Austin*, *Elizabeth Baker*, *Susan Kendall*, *Agnes Poole*, *Mary Thrift*, *Mary Erbury*, *Isabel Buttery*, *Dorcas Erbury*, and *Margaret Freebody*, suffered Imprisonment for preaching and declaring the Truth to the People in the publick Places of Resort and Concourse, a Duty which they esteemed themselves under an indispensable Necessity of performing.

On the 14th of the same Month, *John Woolrich*, going toward his House at Brentford, which he had hired for a Meeting-house, and many Friends with him, was stoppt at the End of the Town by Wardens with Halberts, who detained him four Hours, and those who were with him six Hours: He was shortly after taken out of his own House by Constables, without producing any Warrant, and by a Justice of the Peace there was sent to New-Prison.

On the 7th of the Month called June was a Meeting at the House of *William Mullins* in Vine-street, Holborn, when one *Atkins*, Bayliff to the Earl of Southampton, came to the Window, swearing desperately that he would Quake them; and gathered a Mob, whom he heated with Strong-drink, till they threw Dirt and Stones in at the Window, and shamefully abused many there assembled, he pushing his Sword in at the Window, and threatening to strike his Dagger into the Preacher's Face, calling him reproachful Names, and belching

LONDON,
&c.
1658:

Prisoners in
the Fleet.

Scruple to em-
ploy an Astor-
ney.
Imprisonment
of E. Pea-
cock.

J. Tyfoe's
Commitment
to Newgate.

Imprisonment
of D. Baker,
and many
others.

Imprisonment
of J. Wool-
rich.

Violent Insult
at a Meeting
in Holborn.

LONDON,
&c.
1659.

Innocent Men
ensnared.

Meetings
rudely broke
up by Soldiers.

Imprisonment
of J. Elson.

King Charles
the 2d. his
Declaration.

About 700
Prisoners dis-
charged.

Proclamation
against Meet-
ings.

346 at one
Time in New-
gate.

Passion and
Pride of the
Lord Mayor.

belching out all Manner of Evil-speaking, till the Meeting was ended. When the Man of the House reprov'd him, and warn'd him of his Insolence, he replied, *Take Notice I will rob thee*: This he spake in the Hearing of many Witnesses, and upon Evidence given thereof, a Justice granted his Warrant to apprehend him. A short Time after, there being another Meeting at the same Place, *Atkins* repeated his former Wickedness, and *Mullins* gave the Warrant against him to an Officer, which when *Atkins* perceived, before the Warrant was served, he got the said *William Mullins*, and one *Edward Brook*, a Friend of his, arrested in a Sham Action of Debt, (for neither of them ow'd him any Thing) by two Bayliffs, who violently seized and threw them headlong into a Coach, and hurried them away to *Newgate*: Thus the innocent Men were trepann'd, and the wicked Rioter escaped the just Execution of the Warrant against him.

On the 7th of the Month called *February*, about seventy Persons were pulled by force out of a Meeting at *Westminster*, were beaten, bruised, and had their Clothes torn by Soldiers and others, dragged by the Hair of the Head, and some of them knockt down, among whom were *Rebecca Poole*, *Stephen Hart*, *Samuel Fisher*, and *Ellis Hookes*. It was customary with the Soldiers to break up the Meetings there after this Manner, and some of them said, *they had Orders from General Monk so to do*.

John Elson was fined 4*l.* for refusing to take an Oath, and for Non-payment suffered five Weeks Imprisonment.

ANNO 1660. The Meetings of this People in the City of *London* were generally undisturbed during the first six Months after the Restoration of *King Charles the Second*, who in his Declaration from *Breda* had thus expressed himself, "We declare a Liberty to tender Consciences, and that no Man shall be disquieted or called in Question for Differences of Opinion in Matters of Religion, which do not disturb the Peace of the Kingdom." Pursuant to which he seem'd at first inclinable to act; for upon the Intercession of *Margaret Fell* and others, about seven Hundred of that People, who had been imprisoned under the Government of *Oliver* and *Richard Cromwell*, were set at Liberty. But this Calm was succeeded by a violent Storm, occasioned by an Insurrection of those called *Fifth-Monarchy-Men*, upon which a Proclamation was issued against the Meetings of all Dissenters, including also those of the *Quakers*, though they were entirely peaceable, and had not the least Hand in any Commotion. *Richard Brown*, then Lord-Mayor, a fierce and virulent Man, pursued this innocent People with the utmost Violence and Rigour. Many of them were taken from their own Houses and Employments, others pluckt out of their Beds, and many taken from their religious Meetings, where their Enemies were sure to find them, and committed to *Newgate* in such Numbers, that they had not Room to sit or lie down, nor scarce to stand one by another. There were at one Time in that Goal, of the Mayor's own Committing, three Hundred and forty six Persons, of whom about an Hundred were crouded together in one Room, and divers of them fell sick through the Stench and Closeness of the Place. Within the Space of three Months, viz. In the Months called *December*, *January*, and *February*, he sent thither two Hundred and eighty Persons, whose Names are distinguished in the *Index* hereto annexed; beside many others whom the Officers and Soldiers carried to Prison without any legal or regular Warrant for that Purpose. This Mayor also sent *John Laurence*, *Richard Crane*, and *Richard Davis* to *Newgate*, for opening their Shops on the Day called *Christmas-day*.

ANNO 1661. The Lord-Mayor continued his Severity, and sent fifty seven more to Prison; for such was his Pride and Passion, that he could not endure the Sight of a *Quaker* without Wrath and Resentment. It happened on the 31st of the Month called *March* this Year, he espied *Edward Gollin*, a pretty Way from him, in the *Guild-hall*, with his Hat on, inoffensively discourfing with some Persons met there about Business, whereupon the Mayor ordered him to be sent to *Newgate*: Another Time, as he was going to the same

CHAP. 25. of the People called QUAKERS.

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same Place, he saw two Men in the Yard near *Blackwell-hall* with their Caps on, whereupon he sent for them, and committed them to the Counter by the following *Mittimus*,

LONDON,
&c.
1661.

“ *London* is.

“ **T**HESE are to require you to receive into your Custody the Bodies
“ of *Walter Hewlings* and *John Cripps*, herewith sent you, who this
“ present Day standing in the Way, as I was passing to the *Guild-hall*, with
“ their Hats on their Heads in a bold and irreverent Manner, and being asked
“ why they did so, and were required to take off their Hats, yet they would
“ not, and afterward being brought into *Guild-hall*, were commanded again to
“ put off their Hats, yet they did in a contemptuous Manner keep on their Hats,
“ which being by my Command taken off, they put them on their Heads
“ again before me and the Court of Aldermen, and for other Misdemeanours,
“ and them safely keep till they shall find sufficient Sureties to appear at next
“ Sessions of the Peace, to answer the same, and in the mean Time to be of
“ good Behaviour, or otherwise be discharged by due Course of Law, and
“ this shall be your Warrant. Dated the 17th of *October* 1661.

Commitment
of W. Hew-
lings and J.
Cripps.

To the Keeper of the
Poultry-Counter.

“ **RICHARD BROWN, Mayor.**”

Upon this Commitment they were detained in the Counter till the Ex-
piration of his Mayoralty about twelve Days after: On the 31st of *October* they
sent a Representation of their Case to the succeeding Lord-Mayor, *John Fre-*
derick, in a Letter as follows,

“ *Friend,*

“ **W**E thought good to lay the Cause of our Suffering before thee, that
“ we may not suffer, and thou be ignorant of it.
“ We being in the Yard near *Blackwell-hall* on the 17th of this Instant
“ Month, about our lawful Occasions in the open Market, we having re-
“ ceived some Goods, and standing by them, the Mayor riding by towards
“ *Guild-hall*, and we having our Caps on our Heads, and because our Heads
“ were not bare, we were sent to the Poultry-Counter, and our *Mittimus*
“ chargeth us with standing in the Mayor's Way, with our Hats on our
“ Heads, which are both false, we being neither in his Way, nor having our
“ Hats on our Heads, we having but only two Caps.
“ And so we remain Prisoners, contrary to all Law and Equity, we being
“ Country-men, and are about threescore and ten Miles from our Habitations.

Their Letter
to the succeed-
ing Mayor.

From the Poultry-Counter the 31st
of the Eighth Month 1661.

“ **WALTER HEWLINGS,**
“ **JOHN CRIPPS.**”

After this Representation of their Case they were soon set at Liberty.
Another Instance of the said *Richard Brown's* Pride occurred during his
Mayoralty. As one *Philip Harwood* was coming up *Poster-Lane*, the Mayor
riding by stopt his Horse, and asked *Philip*, whether he was not a Quaker. He
answered, I am so called: Upon which the Mayor, without any more Words,
ordered him to *Newgate*, where he lay about three Months. He also gave
many Proofs of the Cruelty of his Disposition, one of which was, that when
the Wife of *Nicholas Ridley* had been sent by him to *Bridewell*, and fell sick
there, her Husband came to the Mayor, interceding for her Liberty; to whom
he gave this churlish Answer, *Let her die there and rot, thee mayst get another*
Wife the sooner; and instead of shewing Mercy to the sick Woman, sent her
Husband to *Newgate* for asking it.

Another In-
stance of R.
Brown's
Pride,

and of his
Cruelty.

ANNO

LONDON,

&c.

1662.

First Act
against Con-
venticles.Commitment
of 3 to New-
gate.9 Sent to
Newgate.21 Sent to
Newgate by
a verbal Or-
der.Several taken
in private
Houses.Death of
W. Ames.3 Sent from
Bull and
Mouth to
Newgate.More Com-
mitments.Remarkable
Constancy of
two Lads.

ANNO 1662. In the Beginning of this Year the first Act against Conventicles came in force, by which it was enacted, that if any Person should refuse to take an Oath, when by Law required, or should maintain the taking any Oath unlawful, or if the Persons called *Quakers* should meet for religious Exercise after the 24th of *March* 1661, being thereof convicted, should forfeit for the first Offence 5*l.* for the second Offence 10*l.* to be levied by Distress; and for want of such Distress to be imprisoned for the first Offence three Months, and for the second six Months: And upon Conviction for the third Offence, he or she should abjure the Realm, or otherwise the King and Council might cause him or them to be transported to any of the King's Plantations beyond the Seas. In Consequence of this Act, on the 11th of the Month called *May*, five Persons were taken from a Meeting in *John's Street* by one *Philip Miller*, and a Rabble attending him, without any Warrant, and by a Justice of the Peace committed to *Newgate*. On the 13th the said *Miller*, with a Constable, entred the Meeting, and because the Persons assembled would not depart at his Command, he beat them with a Cane, and carried some of them before a Justice, who took their Words to come again next Morning, which they did, when he ordered them to go to the Justices then met at *Hicks's-hall*, who committed nine of them to *Newgate*. On the 25th a Captain with Soldiers dragged thirty nine Persons by force out of the *Bull and Mouth Meeting* to *Paul's Church-yard*, so called, where they were kept some Time with a Guard, and then carried them to Alderman *Richard Brown*, who laid violent Hands on an aged Man, and pulled him down, and without any Examination sent him and three others to *Newgate*, where they were kept several Days so close, that their Friends and Relations were not suffered to speak with them. On the same Day twenty one Persons, taken by Soldiers from a Meeting at the *Snail in Tower-street*, were by the said *Richard Brown's* verbal Order sent to *Newgate*, whither also were committed the same Day by Sir *John Robinson*, Lieutenant of the Tower, six others taken from a Meeting in *Wheeler-street*. On the 21st of this Month several Musqueteers with drawn Swords came into some private Houses, and took *Samuel Fisher*, *Samuel Goodacre*, *Henry Green*, and *John Grimshar*, without shewing any Warrant but their Swords, and carried them to *Paul's Yard*, where they were derided and abused by the Soldiers; from thence they took them through *Cheapside* to the *Old-Exchange*, and thence back through *Newgate-street* to *Richard Brown's House* in *Ivy-lane*, who sent them with a *Mittimus* to *Bridewell*, to be kept to hard Labour; but that *Mittimus* was next Morning changed for another, wherein they were charged with an unlawful Meeting, and ordered to be detained till Sessions. With them *William Ames* was also sent to *Bridewell*, where he was taken sick, and some Time after discharged. He returned to *Amsterdam*, where he dwelt, in a weak and unhealthy Condition, and never recovered, but died that Year.

On the 1st of the Month called *June*, a Company of Soldiers, with Swords drawn and Matches lighted, rushed into the *Bull and Mouth Meeting*, seized the Preacher, and carried him to the Guard at *Paul's*; then returning, they fetcht two others, and carried them all three to *Newgate*; whence after some Hours they were brought before the Mayor, who recommitted them. On the same Day twelve Persons, taken out of a Meeting at *Mile-End-Green*, were committed to *Newgate* by the Lieutenant of the Tower. On the 8th, five Persons from the *Bull and Mouth Meeting*, and six from that in *Aldersgate-street*, were carried to *Newgate* by Soldiers without any *Mittimus* in Writing. On the same Day the Lieutenant of the Tower committed five Persons from *Mile-End Meeting*, he also at the same Time sent two Boys, one of thirteen, the other about sixteen Years of Age, to *Bridewell*: The Constancy of those young Lads was remarkable, who having their Arms put into the Stocks, and there so pinched for the Space of two Hours, that their Wrists were very much swelled, yet continued undaunted, nor could the Keepers force them to work, they asserting their Innocence, and refusing to eat but at their own Charge. They writ also during their Imprisonment an Epistle of Exhortation to Friends Children

Children to stand faithful in their Testimony against all Unrighteousness. On the 22d, at the Bull and Mouth, a Party of Soldiers came and pulled down him that was speaking, and carried him to Prison, beating and abusing many others in a most violent Manner. We shall next present the Reader with

LONDON,

&c.
1662.

*Abused by
Soldiers.*

An Account of the Trial of John Crook, of London, Gentleman, John Bolton, Goldsmith, and Isaac Grey, a Physician, at the Sessions begun at the Old-Baily, in London, on the 25th of the Month called June 1662, before the Lord-Mayor of the City of London, and the Recorder of the same, Chief Justice Forster, and divers other Judges and Justices of the Peace.

SILENCE being made, the chief Judge commanded the Crier of the Court to call one of the Prisoners to the Bar, who was brought thither accordingly out of the Baledock from amongst the Felons and Murderers.

*J. Crook's
Trial.*

Chief Judge. *What Meeting was that you were at?*

Prisoner. I desire to be heard: Where is mine Accuser? For I expect the Issue will be brought forth, having been thus long in Prison.

Judge. *Your Tongue is your own: And you must not have Liberty to speak what you list.*

Prisoner. I speak in the Presence and Fear of the Everlasting God, that my Tongue is not my own, for it is the Lord's, and to be disposed of according to his Pleasure, and not to speak my own Words, and therefore I desire to be heard. I have been so long in Prison—Then he was interrupted by the Judge.

Judge. *Leave your Canting.* Then he commanded the Goaler to take away the Prisoner, which he did accordingly.

This was the Substance of what the Prisoner aforesaid spake at that Time.

Judge. *Call John Crook to the Bar:* Which the Crier did, he also being among the Felons.

Judge. *When did you take the Oath of Allegiance?*

J. Crook. I desire to be heard.

Judge. *Answer to the Question, and you shall be heard.*

J. Crook. I have been about six Weeks in Prison, and am I now called to accuse my self, which you ought not to put upon me, for *Nemo debet se- ipsum prodere*. I am an *Englishman*, and by the Law of England, I ought not to be taken, nor imprisoned, nor disseized of my Freehold, nor called in Question, nor put to answer, but according to the Law of the Land, which I challenge as my Birthright on my own Behalf, and all that hear me this Day (or Words to this purpose.) I stand here at this Bar as a Delinquent, and do desire that my Accuser may be brought forth to accuse me for my Delinquency, and then I shall answer to my Charge, if any I be guilty of.

Judge. *You are here demanded to take the Oath of Allegiance, and when you have done that, then you shall be heard about the other, for we have Power to tender it to any Man.*

J. Crook. Not to me upon this Occasion in this Place; for I am brought hither as an Offender already, and not to be made an Offender here, or to accuse my self; for I am an *Englishman*, as I have said to you, and challenge the Benefit of the Laws of England, for by them is a better Inheritance derived to me as an *Englishman*, than what I receive from my Parents, for by the Former the latter is preserved; and this the 29th Chapter of *Magna Charta*, and the Petition of Right, mentioned in the 3d of *Charles the First*, and in other good Laws of England confirm, and therefore I desire the Benefit and Observance of them. And you that are Judges on the Bench ought to be my Council, and not my Accusers, but to inform me of the Benefit of the Laws, and wherein I am ignorant you ought to inform me, that I may not suffer through my own Ignorance of those Advantages which the Laws of England afford me as an *Englishman*.

Judge. *We sit here to do Justice, and are upon our Oaths, and we are to tell you what is Law, and not you us: Therefore, Sirrah, you are too bold.*

LONDON,

8c.

1662.

J. Crook. *Sirrah* is not a Word becoming a Judge. I am not Felon, neither ought you to menace the Prisoner at the Bar: For I stand here arraigned as for my Life and Liberty, and the Preservation of my Wife, and Children, and outward Estate (they being now at the Stake.) Therefore you ought to hear me what I can say to the full in my own Defence, according to Law, and that in its Season, as it is given me to speak: Therefore I hope the Court will bear with me, if I am bold to assert my Liberty as an *Englishman*, and as a *Christian*: And if I speak loud, it is my Zeal for the Truth, and for the Name of the Lord, and my Innocence makes me bold.

Judge. *It is an evil Zeal.*

J. Crook. No: I am bold in the Name of the Lord God Almighty, the Everlasting *Jehovah*, to assert the Truth, and stand as a Witness for it: Let my Accuser be brought forth, and I am ready to answer any Court of Justice.

Then the Judge interrupted him, saying *Sirrah*, and some other Words not remembered.

J. Crook. You are not to threaten me, neither are those Menaces fit for the Mouth of a Judge, for the Safety of the Prisoners stands in the Indifferency of the Court; and you ought not to behave your selves as Parties, seeking all Advantages against the Prisoner, but not heeding any Thing that may make for his Clearing or Advantage.

The Judge again interrupted him.

Judge. *Sirrah, you are to take the Oath, and we are to tender it you, bidding Read it.*

J. Crook. Let me see mine Accuser, that I may know for what Cause I have been six Weeks imprisoned, and do not put me to accuse my self by asking me Questions, but either let my Accuser come forth, or otherwise let me be discharged by Proclamation, as you ought to do.

Here he was interrupted again.

Judge *Twisden.* *We take no Notice of your being here, otherwise than of a Stragler, or as of any other Person, or of the People that are here this Day; for we may tender the Oath to any Man.* And another Judge spake to the like Purpose.

J. Crook. I am here at your Bar, restrained of my Liberty, and do question whether you ought in Justice to tender me the Oath on the Account I am now brought before you, because I am supposed to be an Offender, or else why have I been six Weeks in Prison already: Let me be cleared of my Imprisonment, and then I shall answer to what is charged against me, and to the Question now propounded, for I am a Lover of Justice with all my Soul, and am well known by my Neighbours where I have lived, to keep a Conscience void of Offence both towards God and towards Man.

Judge. *Sirrah, Leave your Canting.*

J. Crook. Is this Canting to speak the Words of the Scripture?

Judge. *It's Canting in your Mouth, though they are Paul's Words.*

J. Crook. I speak but the Words of Scripture, and it is not Canting, though I speak them, but they are Words of Truth and Soberness in my Mouth, they being witnessed by me, and fulfilled in me.

Judge. *We do ask you again, whether you will take the Oath of Allegiance? It is but a short Question, you may answer if you will.*

J. Crook. By what Law have you Power to tender it?

Then after some Consultation together by Whispering, they called for the Statute Book, and turned over the Leaves.

Judge. *By the 3d of King James.*

J. Crook. I desire that Statute may be read, for I have consulted it, and do not understand that you have Power by that Statute to tender me the Oath, being before you in this Place upon this Occasion as a Delinquent already: And therefore I desire the Judgment of the Court in this Case, and that the Statute may be read.

Then they took the Statute Book, and consulted together upon it.

Judge.

Judge. We are Judges of this Land, and do better understand our Power than you do, and we do judge we may lawfully do it. LONDON, 8th 1662.

J. Crook. Is this the Judgment of the Court?

Judge. Yes.

J. Crook. I desire the Statute may be read that empowers you to tender me the Oath upon this Occasion in this Place; for *Vox audita perit, sed littera scripta manebit*. Therefore let me hear it read.

Judge. Hear me.

J. Crook. I am as willing to hear as to speak.

Judge. Then hear me. You are here required to take the Oath by the Court, and I will inform you what the Penalty will be in case you refuse: For your first Denial shall be recorded, and then it shall be tendered you again at the End of the Sessions, and upon the second Refusal you run a Premunire, which is the Forfeiture of all your Estate, if you have any, and Imprisonment during Life.

J. Crook. It is Justice I stand for, let me have Justice in bringing my Accuser Face to Face, as by Law you ought to do, I standing at your Bar as a Delinquent, and when that is done, I will answer to what can be charged against me, as also to the Question: Until then I shall give no other Answer than that I have already done.

Then there was a great Cry in the Court, Take him away, which occasioned a great Interruption.

J. Crook. Mind the Fear of the Lord God, that you may come to the Knowledge of his Will, and do Justice, and take heed of oppressing the Innocent, for the Lord God of Heaven and Earth will assuredly plead their Cause, and for my Part I desire not the Hurt of one of the Hairs of your Heads; but let God's Wisdom guide you. These Words he spake at the Bar, and as he was carrying away.

The next Day in the Forenoon, the Court being sat, he was called again to the Bar.

Judge. Friend Crook, we have given you Time to consider of what was said Yesterday to you by the Court, hoping you may have better considered of it by this Time, therefore without any more Words, will you take the Oath?

J. Crook. I did not, neither do I deny Allegiance, but do desire to know the Cause of my so long Imprisonment, for, as I said, I stand at your Bar as a Delinquent, and am brought hither by Force contrary to the Law; therefore let me see my Accuser, or else free me by Proclamation, as I ought to be, if none can accuse me. For the Law is grounded upon right Reason, and whatsoever is contrary to right Reason is contrary to Law; and therefore if no Accuser appear, you ought to acquit me first, and then I shall answer, as I have said: If any new Matter appear otherwise, it is of Force, and that our Law abhors, and you ought not to take Notice of my so being before you, for what is not legally so, is not so; and therefore I am in the Condition as if I was not before you. And therefore it cannot be supposed in right Reason, that you have now Power at this Time, and in this Place, legally to tender me the Oath.

Judge. Read the Oath to him. And so the Clerk began to read.

J. Crook. I desire Justice according to the Laws of England, for you ought first to convict me concerning the Cause of my so long Imprisonment: For you are to proceed according to Laws already made, and not to make Laws; for you ought to be Ministers of the Law.

Judge. You are a saucy and an impudent Fellow: Will you tell us what is Law, or our Duties. Then said he to the Clerk, Read on. And when the Clerk had done reading,

J. Crook said, Read the Preface to the Act; I say again, Read the Title and Preamble to the Act; for Titles to Laws, are *Claves Legum*, as Keys to open the Laws; for by their Titles Laws are understood and known, as Men by their Faces.

Then the Judge interrupted him, but he said as follows,

J. Crook.

LONDON,
&c.
1662.

J. Crook. If you will not hear me nor do me Justice, I must appeal to the Lord of Heaven and Earth, who is Judge of Quick and Dead, before whom we shall all appear to give an Account for the Deeds done in the Body; for he will judge between you and me this Day, whether you have done me Justice or not. *And as he was going from the Bar he also said,* Mind the Fear of the Lord God, that you may do Justice, lest you perish in his Wrath.

Sometimes the Court cried, *Pull him away,* and then, *Bring him again:* And thus they did several Times, like Men in Disorder and Confusion.

The same Day in the Afternoon Silence being made, *John Crook* was called to the Bar before the Judges and Justices aforesaid. The Indictment being read, was as follows, viz.

FURATORES pro Domino Rege super Sacramentum suum presentant,
quod apud Generalem Quarterialem Sessionem pacis Domini Regis tentam
pro Civitate London apud Guild-hall ejusdem Civitatis, die Mercurii,
scilicet, vicesimo quinto die Junii, Anno regni Domini nostri Caroli secundi
Dei Gratia Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ, Regis, Fidei Defensoris,
&c. quarto Decimo, coram Johanne Frederick Milite Majore Civitatis Lon-
don, Thomâ Adams Milite & Baronet, Richardo Brown Milite & Baronet,
& Thomâ Aleyn Milite & Baronet, Aldermannis dictæ Civitatis, ac aliis
sociis suis Justiciariis dicti Domini Regis ad pacem in Civitate prædictâ con-
servandum: Nec non ad diversa feloniam, transgressionem & alia malefacta infra
eandem Civitatem perpetrata audiendum & terminandum assignatis, Sessio ista
pacis adjournata fuit per præfatos Justiciarios dicti Domini Regis ibidem, usque
diem Jovis, scilicet, vicesimum sextum diem ejusdem Mensis Junii Anno supra-
dicto ad horam Septimam ante Meridiem ejusdem diei apud Justice-hall in le
Old-Bailey in Parochiâ Sancti Sepulchri in Wardâ de Farringdon extra London
prædictam tenenda coram præfatis Justiciariis & aliis sociis suis ad faciendum
ulterius prout curia consideraverit, &c. Ac ad eundem diem Jovis vicesimum
sextum diem Junii Anno quarto Decimo supradicto, Generalis Quarterialis Sessio
ista pacis tenta fuit pro Civitate London prædictâ per adjournamentum apud
Justice-hall prædictam in parochiâ & Wardâ prædictis coram præfatis Johanne
Frederick Milite Majore Civitatis London, Thomâ Adams Milite & Baronet,
Richardo Brown Milite & Baronet, & Thomâ Aleyn Milite & Baronet,
Aldermannis dictæ Civitatis, ac Willielmo Wylde Milite & Baronet, uno Ser-
vientium dicti Domini Regis ad Legem, ac Recordatore Civitatis prædictæ, ac
aliis sociis suis Justiciariis dicti Domini Regis ad pacem in Civitate prædictâ
conservandum, nec non ad diversa Felonia, Transgressionem & alia Malefacta
infra eandem Civitatem perpetrata audiendum & terminandum assignatis. Ac
ad tunc & ibidem prædictâ Generalis Quarterialis Sessio pacis Prædictæ ulterius
adjournata fuit per præfatos Justiciarios usque diem Veneris, scilicet, Vicesimum
septimum diem dicti Mensis Junii Anno quarto decimo supradicto ad horam Septi-
mam ante Meridiem ejusdem Diei apud Justice-hall prædictam in Parochiâ
& Wardâ prædictis tenenda coram præfatis Justiciariis & aliis sociis suis ad
faciendum ulterius prout curia consideraverit. Ac superinde ad istam eandem
Generalem Quarterialem Sessionem pacis tentam pro Civitate London per Ad-
journamentum prædictum apud Justice-hall prædictam in Parochiâ & Wardâ
prædictis dicto die Veneris vicesimo Septimo die Junii Anno quarto decimo supra-
dicto, coram præfatis Johanne Frederick Milite Majore Civitatis London,
Thomâ Adams Milite & Baronet, Richardo Brown Milite & Baronet,
* Richardo Chiverton Armigero, & Thomâ Aleyn Milite & Baronet, Alder-
mannis dictæ Civitatis, ac Willielmo Wylde Milite & Baronet, uno Servien-
tium dicti Domini Regis ad legem, & Recordatore ejusdem Civitatis ac aliis
sociis

* This is Error, for Richard Chiverton was not named before.

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&c.
1662.

“ sociis suis Justiciariis dicti Domini Regis ad pacem in Civitate prædictâ conser-
 “ vandum, nec non ad diversa Felonia, Transgressiones & alia Malefacta infra
 “ eandem Civitatem perpetrata audiendum & terminandum assignatis, apertâ
 “ Generali Quarteriali Sessione prædictâ, præfati Justiciarii pacis ultimò nominati
 “ existentes Major Pars Justiciariorum pacis ipsius Domini Regis infra dictam
 “ Civitatem London ad tunc, scilicet, dicto vicesimo septimo die Junii Anno quarto
 “ decimo supradictò apud dictam Parochiam Sancti Sepulchri in Wardâ de Far-
 “ ringdon extra London prædictam præsentibus existentibus obtulerant, (Anglice
 “ did tender) Johanni Crook nuper de London Generoso, Johanni Bolton nuper
 “ de London Aurifabro, & Isaaco Grey nuper de London Generoso, & eorum
 “ cuilibet separatim per se, ad tunc existentibus, & eorum cuilibet existenti
 “ ultra Ætatem octodecim Annorum * Juramentum contentum in quodam Acto
 “ in parlamento Domini Jacobi nuper Regis Angliæ tento per † proroga-
 “ tionem apud Westmonasterium in Comitatu Middlesexie quinto die Novembris
 “ Anno regni sui Angliæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ, tertio, & Scotiæ tricesimo
 “ nono, nuper edito & proviso his Anglicanis verbis sequentibus. — I do truly
 “ and sincerely acknowledge, profess, testify, and declare, in my Conscience
 “ before God and the World, that our Sovereign Lord King || Charles the
 “ Second is lawful and rightful King of this Realm, and of all other his
 “ Majesty's Dominions and Countries. And that the Pope, neither of himself,
 “ nor by any Authority of the Church or See of Rome, or by any other
 “ Means with any other, hath any Power or Authority to depose the King,
 “ or to dispose of any of his Majesty's Kingdoms or Dominions, or to au-
 “ thorize any foreign Prince, to invade or annoy him or his Countries, or to
 “ discharge any of his Subjects of their Allegiance or Obedience to his Majesty,
 “ or to give Licence or Leave to any of them to bear Arms, raise Tumults,
 “ or to offer any Violence or Hurt to his Majesty's royal Person, State, or
 “ Government, or to any of his Majesty's Subjects within his Dominions. Also
 “ I do swear from my Heart, that notwithstanding any Declaration or Sentence
 “ of Excommunication or Deprivation made or granted, or to be made or
 “ granted by the Pope or his Successors, or by any Authority derived or
 “ pretended to be derived from him or his See, against the said King, his
 “ Heirs, or Successors, or any Absolution of the said Subjects from their
 “ Obedience, I will bear Faith and true Allegiance to his Majesty, his Heirs
 “ and Successors, and him and them will defend to the utmost of my Power
 “ against all Conspiracies and Attempts whatsoever, which shall be made
 “ against his or their Persons, their Crown and Dignity, by Reason or Colour
 “ of any such Sentence or Declaration, or otherwise, and will do my best
 “ Endeavours to disclose and make known unto his Majesty, his Heirs and
 “ Successors, all Treasons and traiterous Conspiracies which I shall know or
 “ hear of to be against him or any of them. And I do farther Swear that I
 “ do from my Heart abhor, detest, and abjure, as impious and Heretical,
 “ this damnable Doctrine and Position, that Princes which be excommunicated
 “ and deprived by the Pope, may be deposed or murdered by their Subjects,
 “ or any other whatsoever. And I do believe, and in my Conscience am
 “ resolved, that neither the Pope, nor any Person whatsoever, hath Power to
 “ absolve me of this Oath or any Part thereof, which I acknowledge by good
 “ and full Authority to be lawfully ministred unto me, and do renounce all
 “ Pardons and Dispensations to the contrary. And all these Things I do
 “ plainly and sincerely acknowledge and Swear according to these express
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* This is Error, because it is not said, *Et subditis Domini Regis*. † This should be *Pro-
 rogationes*, for there was more than one Prorogation. || It ought to be with some Expression
 of *Mutatis mutandis* of the Name of King Charles the Second instead of King James, who is
 only named in the Act. This is Error, it is not agreeable to the Act, for that saith only
 King James, and certainly the Statute is intended no otherwise, for it is said, *for the
 Trial of his Majesty's Subjects how they stand affected*, &c. and not the Subjects of his Majesty's
 Heirs and Successors.

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Words by me spoken, and according to the plain and common Sense and Understanding of the same Words without any Equivocation, Evasion or secret Reservation whatsoever. And I do make this Recognition and Acknowledgement heartily, willingly, and truly, upon the true Faith of a Christian. So help me God. *Ac quod præfati Justiciarii pacis ultimo nominati * ad tunc + scilicet, dicta vicefimo Septimo die Anno quarto decimo supradicto apud Parochiam & Wardam prædictas in dictâ Quarteriali Sessione pacis prædictæ eosdem Johannem Crook, Johannem Bolton, & || Isaacum Grey, & eorum quemlibet separatim per se requisiverunt ad Juramentum illud super Sacrosancta Dei Evangelia capiendam. Quodque iidem Johannes Crook, Johannes Bolton, & Isaacus Grey, Juramentum prædictum sic per prius nominatos Justiciarios pacis eisdem Jonanni Crook, Jonanni Bolton, & Isaacu Grey, ut præfertur, oblatum & requisitum, ad tunc & ibidem obstinate & pertinaciter capere recusaverunt & quilibet eorum recusavit §. In malum exemplum omnium aliorum dictis regis nunc fidelium subditorum, & in contemptum dicti Domini Regis nunc legumque suarum, contra formam Statuti prædicti, ac contra pacem dicti Domini Regis nunc, Coronam & Dignitatem suas.*

“WILD.”

Judge. Mr. Crook, you have heard your Indictment, what say you, are you Guilty or Not guilty?

J. Crook. I desire to speak a few Words in Humility and Sobriety, in regard my Estate and Liberty lies at stake: And I am like to be a Precedent for many more, therefore I hope the Court will not deny me the Right and Benefit of the Law, as being an Englishman: I have some Reason, before I speak any Thing to the Indictment, to demand and tell you, that I desire to know mine Accusers. I have been kept these six Weeks in Prison, and know not, nor have seen, the Faces of them.

Judge. We shall afford you the Right of the Law as an Englishman, God forbid you should be denied; but you must answer first Guilty or Not guilty, that so in your Trial you may have a fair Hearing and Pleading; but if you go on as you do, (and will not answer Guilty or Not guilty) you will run your self into a Preemunire, and then you lose the Benefit of the Law, and expose your self, Body and Estate, to great Hazards, and whatever Violence is offered to your Person or Estate, you are out of the King's Protection, and lose the Benefit of the Law, and all this by your not answering Guilty or Not guilty. If you plead Not guilty you may be heard.

J. Crook. I do desire in Humility and Meekness to say, I shall not, I dare not betray the Honesty of my Cause, and the honest Ones of this Nation, whose Liberty I stand for as well as my own, as I have Cause to think I shall, if I plead to the present Indictment before I see the Face of mine Accusers; for truly I am not satisfied in my Judgment and Conscience that I ought to plead to a created Offence before you, before I be first acquitted of the Cause of my being brought Prisoner to your Bar, and therefore it sticks with me to urge this farther, viz. That I may see mine Accusers. — Interrupted.

Judge. The errantest Thief may say, he is not satisfied in his Conscience.

J. Crook. My Case is not theirs, yet they have their Accusers, and may not I call for mine?

Judge. Your Indictment is your Accuser, and the Grand Jury hath found you Guilty because you did not swear. What say you Mr. Crook, are you Guilty or are you Not guilty? If you will not answer, or what you have said be taken for

* Ad pacem conservandum nec non, &c. are left out.

+ Et ibidem left out.

|| Immediately after the Tender they should be termed *Subditus dicti Domini Regis*.

§. Contra debitam quoad libet eorum legeantiam should be here inserted, for if he be not a natural born Subject, the Oath is not to be tendered to him.

for your Answer, as I have told you before, you lose the Benefit of the Law, and what I tell you is for your Good.

J. Crook. What is for Good, I hope I shall take it so.

Judge. If you will not answer you run your self into a Præmunire, and you will lose the Benefit of the Law, and of the King's Protection, unless you plead Guilty or Not guilty.

J. Crook. I stand as brought forcibly and violently hither, neither had I been here but by a violent Action, and that you should take no Notice of it, seems strange to me, and not only so, but that you should hasten me so fast into a Course that I should not be able any Ways to help my self, by Reason of your so hasty and fast Proceedings against me to put me out of the King's Protection, and the Benefit of all Law: Was ever the like known or heard of in a Court of Justice?

Judge. This is not here the Question, Whether you are unjustly brought here or not: Do you question that by Law, but not disable your self to take Advantage by the Law: If brought by a wrong Hand you have a Plea against them, but you must first answer Guilty or Not guilty.

J. Crook. How can I help my self when you have outlaw'd me? Therefore let Proclamation be made in the Court, that I was brought by Force hither, and let me stand cleared by Proclamation, as you ought to do, for you are discernere per legem quid sit justum, and not to do what seems good in your own Eyes.

Judge. What if no Man tender'd the Oath to you when you were committed, as you say, yet it now being tender'd to you, from the Time you refuse it being tender'd by lawful Authority, you refusing are indicted. We look not upon you what you are here for, but here finding you, we tender you the Oath, and you refusing it, your Imprisonment is now just, and according to Law.

J. Crook. How came I here, if you know not I have told you, it is by Force and Violence, which our Law altogether condemns, and therefore I being not legally before, am not before you, for what is not legally so, is not so: And I not being legally brought to your Bar, you ought not to take Notice of my being here.

Judge. No, no, you are mistaken: So you may say of all the People gazing here, they not being legally here, are not here. I tell you a Man being brought by Force hither, we may tender him the Oath, and if he take it not, he may be committed to Prison. Authority has given us the Power, and the Statute Law has given us Authority to tender the Oath to any Person, and so have we tender'd it to you, and for your not taking it you are indicted by the Grand Jury: Answer the Accusation, or confute the Indictment. You must do the One or the Other. Answer Guilty or Not guilty.

J. Crook. The Law is built upon right Reason, or right Reason is the Law, and whatever is contrary to right Reason, is contrary to Law, the Reason of the Law being the Law it self. I am no Lawyer, and my Knowledge of it is but little, yet I have had a Love to it, for that Reason I have spent some leisurable Hours in the Hearing thereof: And the Law is that which I honour, and is good in its Place, many Laws being just and good (not all) but I say, a great Part of it, or much of it, and it is not my Intention in the least to disparage or derogate from it.

Judge. Mr. Crook, you have been told you must plead, Guilty or Not guilty, or else you will run your self into a Præmunire: Be not your own Enemy; nor be not so obstinate.

J. Crook. I would not stand obstinately before you, neither am I so. If you understand it otherwise, it is a Mistake indeed.

Judge. Will you speak to the Indictment? And then you may plead. If you will not answer Guilty or Not guilty, we will record it, and Judgment shall go against you. Clerk, enter him.

Recorder. Mr. Crook, if you will answer, you may plead for your self. Will you take the Oath? The Court takes no Notice how you came hither. What say

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say you? Will you answer? For a Man may be brought out of Smithfield by Head and Shoulders, and the Oath tendred to him, and may be committed without taking any Notice how he came here.

J. Crook. That kind of Proceeding is not only unjust, but unreasonable also, and against the Laws aforesaid, which say, No Man shall be taken or imprisoned but by Warrant or due Process of Law. This kind of Practice to take Men by Force, and imprison them, and then ask them Questions, the answering of which makes them Guilty, is not only unrighteous in it self, but also against Law, and makes one evil Act, the Ground of another, and one Injury offered, to be the Foundation of another. And this is my Case this Day.

Judge. Mr. Crook, you must not be your own Judge: We are your Judges, but for our Parts we will not wrong you. Will you answer Guilty or Not guilty? If not, you will run your self into a Præmunire immediately, and then you know what I told you will follow: For we take no Notice how you came hither, but finding you here, we tender you the Oath.

J. Crook. Then it seems you make the Law a Trepan to ensnare me, or as a Nose of Wax, or what you please. Well, I shall leave my Cause with the Lord, who will plead for me in Righteousness. But suppose I do take the Oath now at this Time, you may call me again To-morrow and make a new Tender, or others may call me before them.

Judge. Yes, if there be new Matter, or if there fall out an emergent Occasion, whereby you minister on your Part new Occasion. Mr. Crook, will you Swear?

J. Crook. If I do take it To-day, it may be tender'd to me again To-morrow, and so next Day *ad infinitum*, whereby a great Part of my Time may be spent in taking the Oath and Swearing.

Judge. When you have once sworn, you may not be put upon it again, except you minister Occasion on your Part.

J. Crook. Is this the Judgment of the Court, that the Oath once taken by me is sufficient, and ought not to be tendred a second Time, without new Matter ministered on my Part?

Judge. Yes, you making it appear that you have once taken it.

J. Crook. Is this the Judgment of the whole Court, for I would not do any Thing rashly?

Judge. Yes, it is the Judgment of the Court. To which they all standing up, said Yes.

J. Crook. Then it seems there must be some new Occasion ministered by me after I have once taken it, or it ought not to be tender'd to me a second Time.

Judge. Yes.

J. Crook. Then by the Judgment of this Court, if I make it appear that I have taken the Oath once, and I have ministered no new Matter on my Part, whereby I can justly be charged with the Breach of it, then it ought not to be tendred me the second Time: But I am the Man that have taken it once, being a Freeman of the City of London, when I was made free, witness the Records in Guild-hall, which I may produce, and no new Matter appearing to you on my Part, if there do let me know it, if not, you ought not by your own Judgment to tender it me the second Time, for *de non apparentibus & non existentibus eadem est ratio*.

Judge. Mr. Crook, you are mistaken, you must not think to surprize the Court with Criticisms, nor draw false Conclusions from our Judgments.

J. Crook. If this be not a natural Conclusion from the Judgment of the Court, let right Reason judge; and if you recede from your own Judgment in the same Breath given, as it were, even now, what Justice can I expect from you? For if you will not be just to your selves and your own Judgments, how can I expect you should be just to me.

Judge. Mr. Crook, If you have taken it, if there be a new Emergency, you are to take it again, as for Instance, The King hath been out of England,
and

and now bath come in again. There be many that have taken it twenty, thirty, or forty Years since, yet this new Emergency requires it again; and although you have taken it, yet you must not make it appear before you answer Guilty or Not guilty. Therefore do not wrong your self, and prejudice your self and Family. Do you think that every Fellow that comes hither shall argue as you do? We have no more to do but to know of you whether you will answer Guilty or Not guilty. Take the Oath, and then you shall be freed from the Indictment: If you will not plead, Clerk record it. What say you, Are you Guilty, or Not guilty?

J. Crook. Will you not stand to your own Judgments? Did you not say even now, that if I had but once taken the Oath, it ought not to be tender'd to me the second Time, except I administred new Matter on my Part that I have not kept it, &c. But no such Matter appearing, you ought not to tender it to me the second Time by your own Confession, much less to indict me for a Refusal.

Judge. If you will not plead, we will record it, and Judgment shall be given against you. Therefore say, Guilty or Not guilty; or else we will record it.

The Clerk begins to record it.

J. Crook. Before I answer, I demand a Copy of mine Indictment; for I have heard it affirmed by Council, that if I plead before I have a Copy, or have made my Exceptions, my Exceptions afterwards against the Indictment will be made void. Therefore I desire a Copy of the Indictment.

Judge. He that said so deserved not the Name of a Council; for the Law is, You must first answer, and then you shall have a Copy, will you plead Guilty or Not guilty.

J. Crook. If my pleading Guilty or Not guilty will not deprive me of the Benefit of quashing the Indictment for Insufficiency, or the Exceptions that I may make against it, I shall speak to it.

Judge. No, it will not: Will you answer Guilty or Not guilty? If you plead not, the Indictment will be found against you. Will you answer? We will stay no longer.

J. Crook. I am upon the Point. Will not my Pleading deprive me of the Benefit of the Law? For I am tender in that Respect, because it is not my own Case only, but may be the Case of Thousands more; therefore I would do nothing that might prejudice others, or my self, as a Christian, or as an Englishman.

Judge. Understand your self (but we will not make a Bargain with you, said another Judge) you shall have Right done you as an Englishman, the Way is to answer Guilty or Not guilty. If you plead and find the Indictment not good, you may have your Remedy. Answer Guilty or Not guilty.

J. Crook. As to the Indictment it is very large, and seems to be confused, and made up of some Things true, and some Things false: My Answer therefore is, What is true in the Indictment I will not deny, because I make a Conscience of what I say; and therefore of what is true I confess my self Guilty, but what is false, I am Not guilty of that.

Judge. That is not sufficient: Either answer Guilty or Not guilty, or Judgment will be given against you.

J. Crook. I will speak the Truth as before the Lord, as all along I have endeavoured to do: I am Not guilty of that which is false contained in the Indictment, which is the Substance thereof.

Judge. No more ado: The Form is nothing: Guilty or Not.

J. Crook. I must not wrong my Conscience, I am Not guilty of what is false, as I said before. What is true I am Guilty of. What is not true I am Not guilty of that, which is the Substance thereof, as I said before.

Recorder. It is enough, and shall serve Turn: Enter that, Clerk.

On the 28th, being the Day called Saturday.

Silence being made, John Crook was called to the Bar. The Clerk of the Sessions read something concerning the Jury, which was empanelled, as was

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said on purpose; the Jury who were Eye-witnesses of what had passed between the Court and the Prisoners being dismissed: And the Jury, appointed to try them, were some of them Soldiers, who by Violence and Force had pulled some of them out of their Meetings, and others out of their Houses. Could an upright Judgment be expected from Men in this Case?

The Indictment was read.

J. Crook. I desire to be heard a few Words, which are these, *That we may have Liberty till the next Quarter Sessions to traverse the Indictment.* It being long and in Latin, and like to be a Precedent. And I hope I need not press it; because I understood that you promised (and especially the Recorder, who answered when it was desired, *You shall*) that we should have Council also, the which we cannot be expected to have had the Benefit of, as yet, the Time being so short, and we kept Prisoners, that we could not go forth to advise with Council, neither could we tell how to get them to us: We having no Copy of the Indictment before this Morning; and because so suddenly hurried down to the Sessions, we cannot reasonably be supposed to be provided, as to Matter of Law, to make our Defence.

Judge. *We have given you Time enough, and you shall have no more; for we will try you at this Time, therefore Swear the Jury.*

J. Crook. I desire we may have Justice, and that we may not be surpris'd in our Trial, but that we may have Time till the next Quarter Sessions, our Indictment being in Latin, and so large as it is: And this is but that which is reasonable, and is the Practice of other Courts: If it be but an Action above 40s. it is not ordinarily ended under two or three Terms. And in the Quarter Sessions, if one be indicted for a Trespass, if it be but to the Value of 5s. he shall have Liberty to enter his Traverse, and upon Security given to prosecute, he shall have Liberty till the next Sessions, which is the ordinary Practice; which Liberty we desire, and we hope it is so reasonable it will not be denied, especially upon this Occasion, we being like to be made a Precedent; and Courts of Justice have used to be especially careful in making of Precedents: We are not provided, according to Law, to make our Defence at this Time, and therefore if we be put upon it, it will be a Surprisal.

Judge. *There is no great Matter of Law in the Case: It is only Matter of Fact: Whether you have refused to take the Oath or not? That is the Point in Issue; and what Law can arise here?*

Recorder. *Mr. Crook, the Keeper of the Prison was spoke to to tell you, that we intended to try you this Day, and therefore ordered him that Council might come to you, if you would, and also that the Clerk should give you a Copy of the Indictment. This is fair, therefore we will go on to swear the Jury: For the Matter is, Whether you refuse the Oath or not? And that is the single Point, and there needs neither Law nor Council in the Case, and therefore we considered of it last Night, when we sent you Word, and did determine to try you, and therefore it is in vain to say any Thing, for the Court is resolved to try you now.*

J. Crook. I hope you will not surprize us?

Here several others of the Prisoners called out for Justice, and desired to be heard, before the Jury was sworn; and one of them speaking pretty earnestly, the Executioner was ordered to stop his Mouth, which he did accordingly. A Proceeding the Court thought expedient, the chief Judge having said, that if the Quakers had Liberty to speak, they would make themselves famous, and the Judges odious.

J. Crook. Will you condemn us without Hearing? This is to deal worse with us than Pilate dealt with CHRIST, who though he condemned him without a Cause, yet not without hearing him speak for himself; but you deny us that.

Judge. *Let Mr. Grey come to the Bar.*

Room being made, he was conveyed to the inner Bar, where he spake,

Grey. *I desire to know, whether according to Law, and the Practice of this Court, my self and my fellow Prisoners may have Liberty to put in Bail to prosecute, or traverse, at the next Sessions?*

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Court. No, we will try you presently.

Judge. *Stop their Mouths, Executioner.* And this was the Cry of many upon the Bench.

J. Crook. You might as well have ordered us to be murder'd before we came hither, as to bring us hither under Pretence to try us, and not give us Leave to make our Defence. You had as good take away our Lives at the Bar, as to command us thus to be abused, and to have our Mouths stoppt. Was ever the like known? Let the Righteous God judge between us. Will you hear me? You have often promised that you would.

Judge. Hear me, and we will hear you. We may give you Liberty till the next Sessions; but we may chuse, and therefore we will try you now. The Law of England is not only just but merciful, and therefore you shall not be surprized, but shall have the Justice the Law allows.

J. Crook. I remember what the Judge said even now, that the Law of England was a merciful Law, and that the Court had said before, they might if they would, give us Liberty till the next Sessions, but they would not. And the Maxim of the Law is, *Summum jus est Summa injuria*, therefore I hope your Practice will make it good, that it is a merciful Law, and not to exercise *Summum jus*, &c. upon us, and thereby condemn your selves out of your own Mouths.

Judge. *Jury, give in your Verdict.* For the Jury had been directed not to stir from the Bar, but told by the Judge that they had nothing to find, but whether the Prisoners had taken the Oath or not, and that having been sworn to, they had no more to do but to bring them in Guilty.

J. Crook. Let me have Liberty first to speak: It is but a few Words, and I hope I shall do it with that Brevity and Pertinency my Understanding will give me leave, and the Occasion requires. It is to the Point, on these two Heads, viz. *Matter of Law*, and *Matter of Conscience*. To *Matter of Law*, I have this to say, First, as to the Statute it self, it was made against the Papists, occasioned by the Gunpowder-plot, and is intituled, *For better Discovery and Suppression of Popish Recusants*. But they have Liberty, and we are destroyed what in you lies. As to *Conscience*, I have something to say, and that is, it is a tender Thing, and we have known what it is to offend it, and therefore we dare not break Christ's Commands, who hath said, *Swear not at all*. And the Apostle James said, *Above all Things, my Brethren, Swear not*.

Here he was interrupted again by the Court, calling to the Executioner to stop his Mouth, which he did with a dirty Cloth, and a Gag in his Hand.

Judge. Hear the Jury: Who said something to him, which was supposed to give in their Verdict according to his Order.

Judge. *Crier, make Silence in the Court.*

Silence.

Then the Recorder taking a Paper in his Hand, read to this Purpose, viz.

The Jury for the King do find, that John Crook, John Bolton, and Isaac Grey, are guilty of refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, for which you do incur a Præmunire, which is the Forfeiture of all your Real Estates during Life, and your Personal Estates for ever, and you to be out of the King's Protection, and to be imprisoned during his Pleasure. And this is your Sentence.

J. Crook. But we are still under God's Protection.

Recorder. Adjourn the Court. Which was done accordingly. And the Prisoners remanded back to Newgate.

By the foregoing Trial it is apparent, how strenuous the Endeavours of Men in Authority at that Time were to extirpate the Quakers, not giving them any Opportunity of defending themselves after the Indictment was read, but running them instantly on a Trial whom they were predetermined to convict.

Notes on the Trial.

During the Trial of the aforesaid Persons, about fifty others were brought from Newgate to the Sessions-house by the Keepers, but the Bench in a passionate Manner ordered them back again. About an Hour after, the Keepers hurried

LONDON, hurried them again to the Court, whither being come, the Judges looking
 &c. angry, cried out, *Away with them, carry them back again; lock them up,*
 1662. *away with them.* Thus were they hurried to and fro, but no Procedure had
 against them that Day.

Indictments
 against near
 an Hundred.

On the 1st of the Month called *July*, being the Day called *Tuesday*, about
 eighty Persons were brought from *Newgate* to the Sessions-house, and many of
 them called to answer by two, Six, and sometimes ten together, as the Clerk
 had seen fit to joyn them in one short Indictment, there being Indictments pre-
 pared against about an Hundred of them in the following Form, viz.

“ *London* is.

Form of the
 Indictments.

“ THE Jurors for our Lord the King do present upon their Oath, that
 “ *A. B.* late of *London*, &c. together with divers other Persons to the
 “ said Jurors unknown, to the Number of an Hundred Persons, — Day
 “ of *June*, in the fourteenth Year of our Sovereign Lord King *Charles the*
 “ *Second*, of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, &c. with
 “ Force of Arms, &c. in *London*, &c. to wit, in the Parish of *St. Anne* and
 “ *Agnes* in the Ward of *Aldersgate*, *London*, aforesaid, under Pretence of per-
 “ forming religious Worship, otherwise than by the Laws of this Kingdom
 “ of *England* in this Kingdom is established, unlawfully and tumultuously did
 “ gather and assemble themselves, to the great Terror of his Majesty's People,
 “ and to the Disturbance of the Peace of our now Lord the King, in Con-
 “ tempt of our said Lord the King and his Laws; to the evil Example of all
 “ others in the like Cases offending, and against the Peace of our said Lord
 “ the King, his Crown and Dignity.”

Trials defer-
 red till ano-
 ther Sessions.

Most of the Prisoners pleaded *Not guilty*, and desired a present Trial, but
 were told by the Court, that they should not be tried till next Sessions. Those
 who pleaded not in Form, had their Indictments taken *pro confesso*, and were
 fined some an Hundred Pounds, others an Hundred Marks. Several others,
 irregularly committed by Soldiers, without Warrant or *Mittimus*, and having no
 Indictment or Charge against them, the Court either ensnared by tending them
 the Oath of Allegiance, or requiring Bail, which they could not give. So that
 all who appeared at that Sessions were recommitted to close Prison, where they
 suffered much, as appears by the following Account written by one of them,
 viz.

An Account
 written by
 one of the
 Prisoners.

“ WE are now about seven-score of us Prisoners in this Place, remaining
 “ upon the Accounts before mentioned, and divers of our Friends,
 “ when they were first brought into *Newgate*, were put into a very nasty
 “ stinking Place called *the Hole*, where they always put the condemned Per-
 “ sons, between their Sentence and Execution, and some Friends have been
 “ put there twenty four Hours, and then put up into the Chapel so many
 “ together that they could not all lie upon the Floor, but were crouded and
 “ thronged in a pitiful Manner, some lying in Hammocks, and some no
 “ Lodging at all, but divers have been necessitated to lie upon the Leads
 “ all Night without Doors, and so thronged have we been within, that we
 “ were near stifled with extraordinary Heat, insomuch that it hath been dan-
 “ gerous to cause Sickness and Diseases, but the Mercy of the Lord hath
 “ preserved us generally in Health, except some few, who have been visited
 “ with Sickness for a Time, and only two are departed this Life, one of
 “ which was a fresh lively young Man, and being put into the dark noisome
 “ Hole before mentioned, where condemned Prisoners are put, he took his
 “ Sickness there, and on his Death-bed he would cry out often of the noisome
 “ stinking Prison, as the Occasion of his Distemper, and also it was the
 “ Judgment of both the Juries, that passed on each of the dead Bodies (for
 “ any of the Prisoners dying, a Jury must pass upon them to find out the Cause
 “ of

“ of their Death) that though they died of a Natural Sickness, yet the
 “ Occasion of their Sickness might possibly be their strait Imprisonment in
 “ such noisome Prisons, and so many put together. Yet are not all these
 “ Things regarded, but we are still thronged up and detained in cruel Bonds,
 “ being a great many poor Men among us, whose poor Families are exposed
 “ to Ruin thereby, their poor Wives and Children crying out daily for Want
 “ of Husbands and Fathers, their Trades ruined, and their Customers com-
 “ plaining, and thus the Ruin of many is threatned by Reason of this hard
 “ Imprisonment, yet little Notice at all can be taken of this by any in Au-
 “ thority, but all Hearts shut up, and Compassion fled away, and the Inno-
 “ cent suffering under the Oppression of Men, and no Man regards it.”

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Their Case was so exceeding hard and moving, as to induce about thirty
 Persons of their Brethren, then at Liberty, to sign and present the following
 Petition,

To the Mayor and Sheriffs of London.

“ **F**ORASMUCH as it hath so come to pass, that many of our
 “ Friends, to the Number of seven-score, are now close Prisoners in
 “ Newgate, being violently taken and haled by rude Soldiers, and armed
 “ Men, out of our peaceable Meetings, which we hold only for the Worship
 “ of God; and whereas divers of the said Prisoners are very poor Men, some
 “ of them being poor House-keepers, and others among them poor Servants
 “ in and about this City, and by Reason of their close Imprisonment, not
 “ being permitted of their Keepers to go about any of their Occasions, though
 “ their Necessity often required; and forasmuch as the Families of the
 “ said poor Prisoners are exposed to utter Ruin by Reason of the said Im-
 “ prisonment, and also being kept so many together in close noisome
 “ Rooms in this Summer Season, it hath occasioned Diseases and Sickness,
 “ insomuch that two of them are departed this Life, and others are sick at
 “ this present, and more liable to the same Danger, if not timely prevented;
 “ Therefore we their Friends and Brethren, who are one with them in their
 “ Sufferings, and afflicted with them, and do own the same Cause for which
 “ they suffer, do desire that you would take into Consideration their sad
 “ Estate, and find some Way how they may be relieved, that their Families
 “ may not be utterly ruined, nor their Persons exposed to Death: And if no
 “ other Way can be found for their Relief, if they may not have the Liberty
 “ to follow their Occasions for some Weeks, or until such Time as you shall
 “ call for them, which we desire on their Behalves, and are here ready to give
 “ our Words, that they shall become Prisoners again as you shall appoint
 “ them: And if no other Way can be found, then we, a certain Number of
 “ us, do present our Bodies to you, offering them freely to relieve our afflicted
 “ and oppressed Brethren, and are ready to go into their Places, and to suffer,
 “ as Prisoners in their Room, for your Security, that so many of the poorest
 “ of them, as we are here, may have their Liberty to go about their needful
 “ Occasions, whether it be for some Weeks, or until you shall call for them,
 “ as you see meet in your Wisdom. All which we do in Humility of Heart,
 “ and Sincerity of our Minds, and in the Fear of God, and Love to our
 “ Brethren, that they may not perish in Prison, and in Love to you, that in-
 “ nocent Blood and Oppression may not come upon you, but be prevented
 “ from ever being charged against you.”

*A remarkable
 Petition.*

An egregious Instance of Christian Charity, which though not so strictly legal
 as to be accepted, yet shews on the Part of those who offered it, the fer-
 vent Love they bore to their Brethren, who were thus willing to hazard their
 own Lives for the Preservation of the Sufferers.

*Remarks on
 that Petition.*

In the Time of the Sessions, *Charles Bailey*, and two other Friends, came to
 an House not far off, to hear how Matters went with their persecuted Friends:

LONDON, The Court being informed where they were, sent for them, tendered them the Oath, and committed them to Prison.

8c.
1662.

The Oath tendered to C. Bailey, and others.
Diverse beaten.
13 Others imprisoned.

Among the Prisoners several had been grievously beaten and abused, some by Order of Alderman Brown, and in his Presence, others by his own Hands, viz. Isaac Merritt, John Brown, Thomas Spire, William Hill, John Cooke, Arthur Baker, George Abelson, Nicholas Blithold, and Thomas Lacey.

On the 13th of the Month called July were added to the Number of Prisoners in Newgate, John Shields, Robert Pate, Anthony Skillington, and ten others, taken in a Meeting at the Bull and Mouth, from whence also two others were sent to Bridewell.

The Occurrences of the next Month are related in a printed Sheet, written by an Eye-witness thereof, which we shall transcribe, viz.

"A Monthly Intelligence, relating the Affairs of the People called

"Quakers in and near about the City of London, concerning the

"Violence and Persecution daily brought forth against them, from

"the 1st Day of the Sixth Month called August, until the 1st Day

"of the Seventh Month called September 1662.

A Monthly Intelligence.

IT is not unknown that they have been a persecuted, and afflicted, and suffering People for many Years, even by all the Powers that have ruled in these Kingdoms. And though many Overturns the Lord hath suffered to be, and Men of diverse and different Principles have borne Rule in the Land, even such as have been contrary minded one to another, and some of one Sort have been pulled down, and others contrary to them have been set up in the Nation, yet notwithstanding they have always felt the Wrath of the Wicked upon them, and all Sorts have persecuted them, and this only hath been their Portion in the Land, from all that have had Power. However they have disagreed amongst themselves in Points of Government in Church and State, and sought the Destruction one Sort of another, yet in this they have agreed, and been of one Heart and Mind, to persecute, imprison, and deal violently with this People, as if they were a People only for the Wrath of ungodly Men, and this is not unknown to the World, though all Men should be silent, and they have Patience, yet Prudence teacheth at this Time to make known and publick some of those hard Dealings and Persecutions they have lately met withal in and about this City.

*"First, so it was, on the 3d Day of the Month aforesaid, being the First-day of the Week, there was a Meeting at the Bull and Mouth (the usual Place and Time of their Meeting) and the People being peaceably sitting together, and waiting upon the Lord to feel the Virtue of his Life and Power, and Presence among them, as at other Times, while so waiting, between the Hours of ten and eleven in the Morning, came violently rushing into the Meeting a Party of Soldiers, commanded by a Person whose Qualities the Neighbours can tell you of, and his Name may be mentioned in seasonable Time, he came into the Meeting with his Sword drawn, and his Party some of them in like Manner, who fell on to beat and abuse the poor innocent People, in a very violent and shameful Way, with their Canes in one Hand, and Swords drawn in the Other, neither sparing Age nor Sex, but laid on with what Force and Strength they could, marching up the Meeting on this wise, and making themselves Way by beating, and kicking, and hurling the People on Heaps, and pushing them with the Ends of their Muskets and Weapons; and a certain Person being declaring in the Fear of the Lord among the People to the edifying of their Souls, the Soldiers ran violently upon him, and with much Force pulled him down, and cried, *Secure him*; and also continued to beat and hale the People, crying, *Be gone, be gone*, Nick-naming, and scorning, and threatening, and swearing,*

LONDON,

8c.

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“ swearing, and crying, *Fire at them*: And thus they continued for about two
 “ Hours in the most cruel and abusive Manner as may be named, laying on
 “ upon the Heads, and Shoulders, and Faces of the People, with their Swords,
 “ Staves, and Butts of Muskets, and haling them out of Doors, and many
 “ went away sore bruised, never resisting them, nor using many Words to-
 “ wards them, only one Person asked the Soldiers in these Words, *Do ye*
 “ *know*, said he, *whose Work ye are doing?* and one of the Soldiers answered
 “ in these Words, with an Oath, *I, for my Part, serve the Devil, and his*
 “ *Works I will do*. So when they had wearied themselves with striking, and
 “ haling, and kicking, in Manner as declared, they took away one Man, and
 “ four Women, and guarded them away to *Newgate*, where the Goaler
 “ received them without either Warrant or *Mittimus*, and there they staid some
 “ Hours, and then were led away before Major-General *Brown*, whose Ex-
 “ amination was much like that of the others, of whom you have formerly
 “ heard: And the young Man, (being a good Servant, and well beloved of
 “ his Master, who was not a *Quaker*) was sent to *Bridewell*, where he was
 “ cruelly tormented for divers Days, being forced to stand in the Manacles
 “ to his grievous Pain: (At that Time also there were two more of his
 “ Friends in the same Place, put there only for being at a Meeting, who had
 “ been forced to stand in the same Manner for many Days, till such Time as
 “ they were both taken with Sickness, and one of them, at that very Time,
 “ was near Death in Appearance) and his Master, who loved his good and
 “ honest Servant well, and was no *Quaker*, made Application to Sir *Richard*
 “ *Brown*, to have his Servant released, using his Sickness as an Argument
 “ thereunto; to which the merciless Man replied, *Let him die like a Rogue as*
 “ *he is*, and such like Words: And after some Examination, the four Women
 “ also were sent back to *Newgate*, where they remained till the Sessions; and
 “ there were indicted for being at an unlawful tumultuous Assembly, &c. and
 “ they were tried, and fined each One a certain Sum.

“ The First-day following the People kept their Meeting at the same Place,
 “ according as they used to do, and when they were gathered together,
 “ and a Person being moved to speak to them in the Fear of the Lord, in
 “ comes a Party of Soldiers, rushing and rioting with a Noise of Swords and
 “ Armour, and crying to the People, *Be gone, what do you here?* And
 “ went up to the Place where the Person that was speaking stood, and pulled
 “ him down, and haled him with Violence, and took him away to *Newgate*
 “ with a Guard of Soldiers, where he remained some Weeks. The 12th,
 “ 13th, and 14th Days of the Month, the Sessions were held at the *Old-Bailey*,
 “ to which Place, divers Companies of the *Quakers*, sometimes twelve, and
 “ sometimes twenty together, were led and haled as great Malefactors before
 “ their Bench, and as they passed, the People cried, *Ah, what woful Days*
 “ *are these, that such honest People with such good Countenances, should be baled*
 “ *up and down to Courts and Prisons! What Pity it is!* cried they. Well,
 “ being set to the Bar, like Thieves and Robbers, a Jury was called (such
 “ Persons, you must know, as would well sute the Time, and do their in-
 “ tended Business, and deal hardly with the poor People, as indeed it proved
 “ in the Result of the Matter) and the Indictments being read, and the Wit-
 “ nesses heard; then the Prisoners were asked, *What they had to say for their*
 “ *Defence?* To which many of the Prisoners answered, and pleaded both with
 “ Law and Reason, and made some Exceptions against the Witnesses, who
 “ were the very Men that had themselves illegally apprehended the Persons,
 “ and were the very Parties against the Prisoners, and yet were called to be
 “ Witnesses too; and there was such Stammering and Contradiction in their
 “ own Mouths, as made the Beholders hiss at them, sometimes *eight*, some-
 “ times *ten* of the Prisoners called in a Company, and for the most Part it
 “ was the Man that commanded the Party of Soldiers, that beat them and
 “ abused them, and apprehended them, as you have heard, who was called
 “ to swear and evidence against the very same Persons, whom he had struck
 “ and

LONDON,

&c.

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“ and haled with his Party of Soldiers in Manner as aforesaid, and though the
 “ Prisoners did justly except against the Witneses, as being Parties, and the
 “ Persons that had violated the Law themselves, and such like, yet no Notice
 “ of this would be taken by the Court, nay, though one Witness said one
 “ Thing, and said contrary to the same Thing in one Breath, yet no Notice
 “ would be taken, but all passed as right Evidence, and when the Judge
 “ asked one Witness (that was the only Witness, for there was only he against
 “ ten Persons) *Are you certain, says the Judge, that these are the Persons that*
 “ *you took at that Meeting?* The Witness replied, *My Lord, said he, I don't*
 “ *know the Faces of the Men, but these Men's Names I have in a Note here.*
 “ Well, all this passed as Carrant, both with the Court and Jury: Judge then
 “ what Men the Jury were made up of) and all was taken as Verity, and
 “ most of the Prisoners were taken from the Bar, and not suffered to speak
 “ their Minds in Defence of their Cause, but haled rudely away by the Goalers.
 “ And by such kind of Proceedings the Prisoners were brought in *Guilty*, and
 “ sentenced by the Court so much Fine, some an Hundred Marks, and some
 “ twenty Pounds, and some less, and all committed to Prison till Payment,
 “ and divers of the Prisoners were not tried at all, for no Man would appear
 “ to accuse them, nor witness against them, yet were they not discharged by
 “ the Court, as in Justice they ought to have been, but were sent back to
 “ Prison again.

“ All this Month, and for two Months before, the Prisons about the City,
 “ especially *Newgate*, have been full of these Prisoners, for all this Summer-
 “ time, and many together thronged up in narrow stinking Holes, and not
 “ permitted to have Air, but so straitned for Room, that many great Incon-
 “ veniencies have befallen them, and dangerous Sickneses and Diseases have
 “ come upon many, insomuch that divers have fallen sick of dangerous *Fevers*,
 “ and some been restored again, and eight or ten Prisoners have laid down the
 “ Body, even for a Testimony against their Persecutors, whose Blood will be
 “ accounted one Day in the Number of Innocents, and according to the
 “ Judgment of many, even some of the Jury-men, that sat upon the dead
 “ Bodies, were of that Judgment, that the very Occasion of that Sicknes was
 “ the Straitness and Narrowness of the Prisons, being so hot, and in such
 “ Throngs, that they had not Room to lie down all at once, which hath oc-
 “ casioned the Death of divers honest Men, and for some Time every Day
 “ some fell sick, and two and two were carried to their Graves together from
 “ *Newgate*, which made the People cry out of the Cruelty of such Proceed-
 “ ings, that honest Men should lose their Lives in Prisons, and be borne away
 “ by two and two together in one Week, which made the Beholders
 “ astonished; and this is observable, that most of the Persons that died,
 “ upon their Death-beds cried out of the Cruelty of the Rulers, and that a
 “ *terrible Day is at hand upon them, a Day of Vengeance upon the Wicked, and*
 “ *desired all their Friends to be faithful*, and such like Words were in their
 “ Mouths at the Time of their Departure, who we believe gave up their
 “ Lives for the Truth and Testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ, and their
 “ Reward is with them for ever, and their Memories shall live for ever, and
 “ never die, nor be blotted out of the Record of the faithful Martyrs.

“ About the 19th and 20th Days of the Month, the Sessions were held
 “ again at the *Old-Bailey*, to which Place it was supposed that more of the
 “ Prisoners would have been brought in order to a Trial, for many remained
 “ still untried, but nothing was laid to their Charge as yet; for some of
 “ them were never before any Magistrate, but taken out of Meetings by
 “ rude Soldiers, as you have heard, and guarded away to *Newgate*, and never
 “ had to Examination, nor committed by any Civil Officer, but not one of
 “ the Prisoners were called that Sessions.

“ About this Time there was a Sessions at *Hicks's-ball*, for the County of
 “ *Middlesex*, where divers of the People called *Quakers* were brought, for there
 “ was in the *New-Prison*, the Goal for that County, about fifty Persons of the
 “ said

“ said People, who at divers Times had been taken out of several Meetings in LONDON,
 “ the County, and most of them committed by the Lieutenant of the Tower, &c.
 “ and some of them had lain in that Prison three Months, and never called 1662.
 “ to any Trial before this Time, and divers Persons were then called and
 “ indicted for being at unlawful Meetings, &c. and only seven of them were
 “ fined, two of them 5*l.* a piece, and one Man 10*l.* and sent to *Newgate*,
 “ there to continue till Payment.

“ And the 27th of the same Month, the Sessions were kept again at *Hicks's-*
 “ *ball*, to which Place all the whole Company of Prisoners were called before
 “ the Bench, above forty in Number, and only called over, and some Ques-
 “ tions asked them, and all discharged by the Court, only five excepted,
 “ who were sent to *Newgate* as excepted Persons, and the discharged Persons
 “ sent back to Prison again, and kept there for Fees about five Days, and
 “ then all let go forth at their Liberty.

“ The Occasion of their Release was on this wise, there being about two
 “ Hundred of the said People at divers Times taken out of their Meetings,
 “ and committed into the Goals of *London* and *Middlesex*, as you have heard,
 “ and the King having Information and Knowledge of the same (as it is sup-
 “ posed by some of the Magistrates of the City) he was pleased (whether upon
 “ any Application made to him by some of them, or for what End I know
 “ not) upon the Occasion of the *Queen's* first Coming to *Whitehall*, being a
 “ Day and Time of Rejoicing for that Reason, to send a Letter to the Mayor
 “ and Magistrates, signifying, *That whereas divers Persons going under the*
 “ *Name of Quakers, and others of Separation, were imprisoned for being at*
 “ *unlawful Meetings, yet did profess all Obedience to him, and it was hoped that*
 “ *for the Time to come, some of the said People would conform themselves; and*
 “ *upon the Occasion of his Royal Consort's first Coming to his Palace at White-*
 “ *hall, he would have them discharge and enlarge all the said People out of the*
 “ *Goals of London and Middlesex, excepting such as had been indicted for re-*
 “ *fusing the Oaths of Allegiance, or were Ringleaders or Preachers among them.*

“ This was the very Purport of the Letter, according to which all, save a
 “ few Persons excepted, were discharged in a few Days after: Only by the
 “ Goaler of *Newgate*, those that were in his Prison were kept by him about
 “ five Days for Fees, as before is said concerning the Goaler of *New-Prison*,
 “ till at last the Sheriff went in Person to *Newgate*, the 28th Day of the
 “ Month, and what Discourse fell out between him and the Goaler I know
 “ not, only I heard some Words of Crossness was between them about the
 “ Business, the Goaler denied to let them forth till they had paid their Fees,
 “ but the Sheriff would have them forth, accordingly he caused the Doors to
 “ be opened, and the Prisoners were called over, and all that were committed
 “ by *Sir Richard Brown* he set at free Liberty, except only about six that
 “ were excepted by the Mayor and the Court, according to the King's Letter,
 “ so that at this Time the Goals of *London* and *Middlesex*, are almost clear of
 “ the *Quakers*, saving about twelve remaining.

“ But the Envy of some Men, against this People, was not at an End,
 “ though the King's Clemency and Favour was extended toward them in
 “ releasing them, for on the 23d Day of the Month, the very Day of the
 “ Publication of the King's Letter, *John Bolton*, *Isaac Grey*, and *John Crook*,
 “ the three Persons that were indicted and sentenced with a *Præmunire*, and
 “ had their Estates seized upon immediately after Sentence, as ye have heard
 “ heretofore, were set free by the Goaler, and went out of the Prison, all
 “ looking upon themselves as discharged Persons, and were actually delivered
 “ by the Goaler himself; notwithstanding, two Days after, the Goaler's Ser-
 “ vant fetched two of them into Prison again, only *J. Crook* was gone into
 “ the Country, and could not be found, the Bottom of which Business, nor
 “ the Reason of it cannot yet be found out, but many do cry out at the In-
 “ justice of it, that Men should be delivered out of Prison by the Goaler
 “ himself, and within two Days to send his Servants to take up Men again

LONDON, " legally delivered, and hurry them into Prison, where they are yet de-
 &c.
 1662. " rained.

" Also the 24th Day of the Month, the very next Day after the Publica-
 " tion of the King's Letter, being the First-day of the Week, there was a
 " Meeting, according as it used to be in *Wheeler-street*, into which Meeting,
 " when the People were quietly waiting upon the Lord, came rushing some
 " Officers, and violently abused some, and took away about nine Persons,
 " and brought them before a Justice of the Peace, and they were committed
 " to *New-Prison*, and kept twelve Days, and then set at Liberty. Also the
 " same Day, in the Evening, Sir *Richard Brown* (some of his Military Offi-
 " cers being in Company with him) met a Person in the Street, going about
 " his lawful Occasions, who had been let forth of *Newgate* the Day before,
 " discharged by the King's Letter: Said Sir *Richard Brown*, when he saw
 " him, *There's a Quaker, take him up and carry him to the Counter*, and
 " without more ado, the Person was carried by some Military Officers, and
 " had away to *Wood-street-Counter*, where he remains to this Day.

" Now we draw near to the End of the Month, which ends in the same
 " Manner as it began, in Cruelty and Wickedness; for on the last Day of the
 " Month, being the First-day of the Week, the People were peaceably met
 " together at the *Bull and Mouth*, and for two Hours kept their Meeting,
 " and were ready to dismiss their Meeting, and after the eleventh Hour, came
 " rushing and roaring into the Meeting Major-General *Brown*, with a Party
 " of Men with their Swords drawn, in the rudest Manner as may be expressed,
 " and as soon as they were entred within the House among the People, they
 " cried, *Shut the Door, make it fast*; which was done by some of them:
 " Many of the People wonder'd at their Intentions, thinking their Purpose
 " had been to have murder'd them, but the Officer and his Party fell on to
 " beat, and strike, and wound the People in a fearful Manner, knocking
 " down diverse to the very Ground, where lay six or eight Persons all at once
 " without Doors, dragged forth by Head and Shoulders, and cast down upon
 " the Pavement and in Kennels, half dead by sore Blows and inhuman Strokes,
 " the Officer having in one Hand a Club about a Yard long, which seemed
 " to be as much as he could well handle for Bigness and Weight, with which
 " he laid on about him without Mercy or Manhood, as did the most of his
 " Party, in the most unmerciful Manner that ever any beheld in this City
 " in Time of Peace, for they neither regarded Age nor Sex, Man nor
 " Woman, Young nor Old, but cut and bruised on the one Side and on the
 " Other, and haled them into the Streets, and there beat some down to the
 " Ground again. One Person was knockt down five Times, and such was the
 " Cry of the Lookers on, for there were Abundance in the Street, that were
 " no *Quakers*, that many of them got grievous Blows for their pitiful Words,
 " who cried out, *Shame, shame*, that ever these Things should be seen in
 " *London*, that one Neighbour should thus fall upon another, like Massacre
 " and Butchery, in such inhuman Sort; for the Blood lay visible in the Streets,
 " and running down their Faces and Shoulders. Thus they continued in a
 " vile Manner, abusing the poor People, for about the Space of two Hours;
 " insomuch that one Man was wounded on his Head, and his Scull cut, so
 " that his Brains were seen, as some say, who was forthwith had to a Surgeon,
 " and he is now very weak of his Wound, by some thought irrecoverable.
 " Also another Person, lying weak and at the Point of Death about ten
 " Days, is now * dead, by Reason of Blows and Bruises received, which is

" settled
 " * His Name was *John Trowell*. His dead Body was conveyed to the *Bull and Mouth*
 " Meeting-Room, where he received the Wounds and Bruises that occasioned his Death.
 " Upon View and Enquiry made by the Coroner and his Inquest, with the Surgeons at-
 " tending them, it was evident that the Man was absolutely murdered, and that it was done
 " by some or other of the Trained-Bands who came to that Meeting; but it did not appear
 " who

“felled upon him inwardly, for he was seen knockt down in the Street, and
 “then the Man that did it violently trampled with his Feet upon his Heart.
 “One Woman was wounded, and many sore bruised, the Marks to be seen
 “upon their Heads and Shoulders to this Hour, and it is thought some will
 “never be found Persons again, and divers went bleeding away, who had like
 “to have fainted e’er they got Home, by Reason of Bruises and Wounds,
 “and when it was asked some of the Soldiers, *Why they would be so cruel to*
 “*their Neighbours?* One of them answered, *Nay, we are more merciful than*
 “*we ought to be, for we have Orders to kill,* and his Musket was double
 “charged with Bullets, as most of the Parties were to his Knowledge, and
 “some were seen to chew their Bullets when they loaded their Muskets, and
 “one Hanger and one Weapon were both seen broken by Force of Blows over
 “Men’s Heads: And as if this were not enough, that the Soldiers could do,
 “it was observed, that some wicked Persons, not under Command, fell in with
 “the Soldiers, and drew their Swords, one or two Papists, as will be proved,
 “if need require, and they were seen to lay about them, and strike and wound
 “with their Swords; and one that knew one of them, spake to him, and
 “said, *Is it not a Shame for you to be here at this Work, that are a suffering*
 “*People your selves?* For Shame, for Shame leave off. So then he slunk away.
 “Another, a Footman, being an Irishman and a Papist, who had a Kinswoman
 “there called a Quaker, told her, that he saw divers there of their Church,
 “which did beat, cut, and lay about them in a violent Manner, and one in
 “particular, who is generally reputed a Papist, a great Officer in the Yellow
 “Regiment of the Trained-Bands, and not pertaining to the Red Regiment,
 “who was that Day on the Duty, and by some is said to be Apothecary to
 “the Queen, was there, fell in with the Soldiers, and seen by many that
 “knew him well, (whose Place and Name is well known, though shall not
 “now be mentioned) to lay about with a naked Sword in a violent Manner.
 “And when they had continued thus without ceasing for about two Hours,
 “they went away for new Recruits, and in less than an Hour came again,
 “and many more of them, and the People were coming together again for the
 “Afternoon Meeting, and the Soldiers fell on again in the same Manner as
 “before, and continued till five in the Evening, and one Man was committed
 “for only pointing with his Hand to a Person that lay in the Street: Thus
 “the last Day of the Month was spent. Let all honest and sober People
 “judge of these Things. Moreover the next Day some of the same Soldiers
 “were heard to say, *That the next Day they would cut the Throats of some, if*
 “*they were hanged for it.* Diverse Persons this Month have been committed,
 “because they could not send out Soldiers in the Trained-Bands, who have
 “refused in Conscience to send out Men to deal thus by themselves and their
 “Friends, as you have heard, for this kind of Dealing is most of the Work
 “which the Trained-Bands in London have done for this last three Months.”

For about six Weeks after this, the Meetings in the City were generally
 quiet, the Death of the murdered Man, and the Apprehension of Trouble
 which might have followed, having probably struck some Damp upon the
 persecuting Magistrates, for the present, who nevertheless soon returned to the
 same Practice.

LONDON,
 1662.

A short
 Respite.

“who was the particular Man that killed him, though the Inquest did their Endeavour to
 “discover the Murderer; for whole Escape the City had been liable to a Fine, if the Jury
 “had brought in a Verdict of wilful Murder; to avoid which it was thought they suspended
 “the Matter, and at length let it drop. An Account of that Day’s Barbarity, and this
 “Person’s Murder in particular, was printed and presented to the King by one of those
 “called Quakers, to whom the King replied, *I assure you it was not by my Advice that any of*
 “*your Friends should be slain. You must tell the Magistrates of the City of it, and prosecute the*
 “*Law against them.* But Richard Brown hearing of the said Paper’s being spread, committed
 “the Author, who had put his Name to it, to Newgate, for dispersing scandalous Papers,
 “as he was pleased to call them.”

On

LONDON,
1662.

Numbers com-
mitted from
the several
Meetings.

3 Young Men
sent to New-
gate.

Violence of
R. Brown.

R. Crane im-
prisoned for
writing a
Book called
The Cry of
Newgate.

A List of
those who died
in Newgate,
or of Sickness
contracted
there.

On the 7th of September two Women were committed to *Bridewell* for an Action, which though extraordinary, has some Resemblance to what on particular Occasions holy Men and Prophets have been moved to: These Women entered *Paul's Cathedral* in Time of Worship, one of them having her Face blackt, and her Hair let down with Blood poured upon it, which ran down upon Sackcloth she had on, she also poured some Blood upon the Altar, and uttered some Words as she did it. This seems to have been done as a prophetick Warning of deserved Vengeance for the innocent Blood so lately spilt in the City.

On the 28th of October the Meetings were again violently broke up by Soldiers, and that Day were committed to *Newgate*, from the Meeting at the *Bull and Mouth*, eighty Persons: From the *Peel* in *John's-street*, one Hundred and twenty eight: From *Aldersgate-street*, eight Persons, beside the Woman of the House: From *Wheeler-street*, six: And several from *Westminster*: Also thirty two who were driven from the *Bull and Mouth* to *Bridewell* by the Soldiers.

On the 2d of November were committed from *Wheeler-street*, seven; one of whom they took in the Street, not at the Meeting: On the same Day one from *Mile-end-Green* was sent to Prison: Also three young Men, going toward *Hammer-smith*, were seized by some Soldiers of the Guard, and kept Prisoners that Day and all next Night, lodging on the Boards. Next Day a Corporal told them, If they would give Money to the Officers they might be released: But refusing that, they were carried before two Justices, who tendered them the Oath of Allegiance, and sent them to *Newgate*. On the 9th were committed from *Wheeler-street*, two: On the 12th from the *Bull and Mouth*, six: On the 16th from *Wheeler-street*, six: On the 23d, *William Bayley* and five others, standing quietly in the Street, near the *Bull and Mouth* Meeting-place, were taken by Soldiers and carried to *Richard Brown*, who caused their Hats to be pulled off with much Violence and Wrath, and smote *William Bayley* with his Fist several Times, and when *William's* Wife reproved him for abusing her Husband, he struck her on the Mouth, and threw her on the Floor, and though *William* cautioned him to beware what he did, she being with Child, he nevertheless struck her and threw her down again, and at length ordered his Man and other rude Fellows to carry *William* to *Newgate*. On the 28th, *Richard Crane*, a Distiller in *Aldersgate-street*, was taken by one of the King's Messengers, and committed to *Newgate* for writing a little Book, intituled, *The Cry of Newgate and other Prisons in and about London*. It was directed to the Magistrates, Priests and People of the City of *London*, and contained some sharp and zealous Remonstrances against the raging Spirit of Persecution. Another Friend was the same Day imprisoned on Suspicion of printing the same Book, though *Crane* acknowledged himself to be the Author.

On the 2d of the Month called *January*, two Persons from the *Bull and Mouth* were committed to *Newgate*: And on the 4th of the same, a Man and a Woman to *Bridewell*.

We shall close our Account of this Year with a List of the Persons who died Prisoners in *Newgate*, or soon after their Discharge, by Sickness contracted there, namely,

1. *John Stanton*, who died on the 21st of the Month called *June*, leaving a Widow and five small Children.

2. *Thomas Kirby*, a young Man, an *Haberdasher*, lately out of his Apprenticeship, who died on the 1st of the Month called *July*.

3. *Richard Hubbertborn*, a faithful Minister of the Gospel, of a most humble and inoffensive Conversation, departed this Life, in perfect Peace, on the 17th of the Month called *August*, after seven Weeks Imprisonment.

4. *Anthony Skillington*, who with ten others was kept two Nights in the condemned Hole, and then put into a stinking Place among the common Felons. The Jury that viewed his Body said, *The Stench of the Place and Want of Air had forfeited him, and occasioned his Death in the Heat of Summer.*

5. *John*

5. *John Giles*, a faithful Labourer in the Gospel, who was taken out of a Meeting as he was preaching, and sent to *Newgate*, where he died on the 29th of the Month called *August*. LONDON, &c. 1662.

6. *William Watson*, of *Whitechapel*, who died on the 25th of the same Month.

7. *William Eldridge*, } Committed at one Time for Meeting, were taken

8. *John Shoot*, } sick and died about the End of the Month called

9. *Richard Bradley*, who laid down his Life in *Newgate* on the 1st of September this Year.

10. *Henry Boreman* died a Prisoner there on the 17th of *October*, having been committed for selling religious Books: He left a Wife with three Children then living, and with Child of a fourth.

11. *Thomas Anstee*, } Both committed to *Newgate* by *Richard Brown*,

12. *William Hawkes*, } died there.

13. *Thomas Rogers*, a young Man, fell sick about the Tenth Month, and died soon after.

14. *Mark Close*, } All died Prisoners in *Newgate* about the End

15. *Gabriel Shaller*, } of *December*.

16. *John Cooper*,

17. *Thomas Hancler*.

18. *William Pryor*, a working Man, who left a Wife and Children destitute of their Subsistence, which depended on his Labour.

19. *Samuel Petchet*, a young Man, lately come out of the Country. These three last mentioned, died about the 6th and 7th of the Month called *January* 1662.

20. *Edward Burroughs*, a zealous, courageous, and faithful Preacher. In the Time of Sicknes he was often fervent in Prayer to the Lord, and expressed several Times to those about him, his comfortable Enjoyment of the Presence of God, and a very little Time before his Death uttered these Words, *Now my Soul and Spirit is center'd into its own Being with God, and this Form of Person must return from whence it was taken*. He died on the 14th of the Month called *February* 1662-3, after near nine Months Imprisonment, being about twenty eight Years of Age, ten of which he had devoted to the Work of the Gospel-Ministry. About three Months before his Death he writ the following Letter to some of his Friends in the Country, viz.

" Dear and beloved Friends !

" THE lively Remembrance of you dwells always with me, praying for the Increase of Peace and Blessing to you from the Father. I know ye have learned Christ, and are acquainted with the Teachings of his Grace and Spirit which leads you into all Truth, and is a Comforter unto you in all Conditions, which is present with you and in you in all Times and Places, even the Spirit of the Holy God, which is given you, because you are Children of him, who is God blessed over all.

" Dearly Beloved, my Heart is filled with fervent Love towards you at this Time, and the lively Sense of the Lord's suffering People rests upon my Spirit, with the dear Embraces and Salutations in the same Love with which I am loved of *Christ Jesus my Lord*, whom I hope ye have so learned as never to deny his Name and Truth. I am persuaded concerning you, that the greatest of Tribulations, Afflictions, and Sufferings, can never move or shake your Hope or Confidence in God, nor separate you from his Love, Life, and Peace, which many of you have had large Manifestations of, and some the assured Possession of for evermore, and I hope nothing can separate you from that Love which is of God, or divide you from it into the Absence of the Father's Presence which is full of Joy and Peace: Nothing, I say, can be able to break our Fellowship with the Lord, but that he is ours, and we are his, whatsoever Transactions or Tribulations may pass upon our outward Man. I write unto the Faithful, and I need not say unto you, *Know the Lord*, but I may say, *Stand fast, faithful and valiant*

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5 F

" unto

E. Burroughs
his Letter to
his Friends.

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1662.

unto Death, for the Knowledge of God which ye have received, and give your selves to be destroyed, rather than to renounce or deny Christ before Men, or to cease from the Exercise of your Consciences in what his Holy Spirit persuades your Hearts in the Verity of.

Friends here are generally well in the inward and outward Man, and the Presence of the Lord is manifest with us through great Trials, and fore Afflictions, and grievous Persecutions, which we have met withal this last half Year. It would be too large to relate, and piercing of your Hearts to hear the Violence and Cruelty which Friends have suffered in this City in their Meetings, and in Prisons, it hath been very hard to bear the Persecution inflicted every Way, though the Lord hath given Strength and Boldness, and his Power alone hath carried through, else many would have fainted, and not have been able to stand. Many have given up their Lives in Faithfulness in this Place, and their Faithfulness in keeping Meetings, and in patiently enduring many Tribulations and cruel Exercises, is a Crown upon Friends in this City: Here is now near two Hundred and fifty of us Prisoners in *Newgate, Bridewell, Southwark, and New-Prison*. In *Newgate* we are extremely thronged, that if the Mercy of the Lord had not preserved us we could not have endured; there is near an Hundred in one Room on the common Side amongst the Felons, and their Sufferings are great, but the Lord supports. For about six Weeks Time the Meetings were generally quiet in the City, but these three last Weeks they have fallen on more violently than ever, and imprisoned many Friends; but through all this Truth is of good Report, and the Nobility of it gains Place in many Hearts, which are opened in Pity and Compassion toward innocent Sufferers, and Truth is increased through all Trials. Our Trust is in the Lord and not in Man; and we desire the same Spirit may dwell and abide in you also, that ye may be like-minded with us, and we all of the Mind of Christ, who seeks Men's Salvation, and not their Destruction.

"EDWARD BURROUGHS."

Character of
E. Burroughs
contained in

Thus died this faithful Martyr and Witness to the Truth, an eminent Example of the Christian Constancy and Patience he recommended unto others, and as he remained stedfast in the Faith unto Death, we doubt not but he has received the Crown of Life, and an Admittance into the Rest prepared for the People of God. His just Character is contained in

Character of
E. Burroughs
contained in

"The Testimony of GEORGE WHITEHEAD concerning him."

G. White-
head's Testi-
mony concern-
ing him.

AS for *Edward Burroughs*, our dear Brother and Companion in Travel, Suffering, and Consolation, for the Everlasting Gospel's Sake in his Day, his Testimony lives with us. He was a Preacher of Righteousness, and one who travelled for the Redemption of the Creature from under the Bondage of Corruption, and proclaimed Liberty to the Captives in the Power and Authority of God: And therein was a true Witness against Oppression, and all the antichristian Yokes imposed in the Night of Apostacy upon the Persons and Consciences of People; and truly and valiantly he held forth the Liberty of Conscience, and vindicated it to the great Men of the Earth, in Things appertaining to God in Matters of Religion and Worship, against the Persecution and Compulsion, (which had its Original and Rise from the Power of the Beast, which hath made War against the Righteous Seed) that Men might be left free to the Guidance of the infallible Spirit of God, which is not to be limited in these Matters, and not to be compelled, nor brought under the corrupt Wills of Men, nor their fallible Judgment, nor invented Forms in these Cases: And the Name of this Minister of Righteousness is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, and all the Enemies of his Life can never be able to blot it out, nor extinguish his Memorial. O the Remembrance of his Integrity, Uprightness, and Sincerity,

"hath

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1662.

“ hath deep Impressions upon my Heart, and that tender Love and Affection
 “ in God's Truth, which he was filled with towards all the Upright (who
 “ were Lovers of Peace and Unity in the Lord) is never to be forgotten by
 “ us who are remaining in the Work of the Lord, and the Everlasting Gospel,
 “ for which he hath left a glorious Testimony, the Glory of which shall never
 “ be extinguish'd, but Thousands shall praise the Lord our God because thereof;
 “ yea, even the Seed that's in the lower Parts of the Earth, where Darkneſs
 “ covers it, and the Child that's yet unborn in many, that's curiously framed
 “ in the Mother's Womb, whose Members are written in the Book of God,
 “ shall glorify the Lord on his Behalf. And this Testimony many have already
 “ concerning him, that though his Body be dead, his Spirit liveth in the Im-
 “ mortality of that Life that is immutable, and that never dies nor waxes
 “ old, and is felt among the Righteous, who walk in their Integrity and
 “ Constancy to the Lord.

“ And this faithful Servant of the Lord, and valiant Soldier of the Lamb,
 “ (as in his Day was evidently apparent) *to live to him was Christ, and to*
 “ *die was Gain.* And though in his Time many were the Sufferings and
 “ Afflictions which his Life went under, and his upright Spirit suffered, both
 “ from his open Enemies and Persecutors in the World, because of his Valour
 “ and Courage for the Truth of God, and from deceitful and transforming
 “ exalted Spirits, which burden the holy Seed, but now his Life is caught up
 “ above them all, and is out of their Reach, in the transcendent and un-
 “ speakable Glory in the everlasting Habitation and Firmament of God's
 “ Power, where he hath shined, and doth shine among the Stars, that have kept
 “ their Habitations, as one that hath turned many to Righteousness, and that
 “ hath overcome by the Blood of the Lamb, and the Word of his Testimony,
 “ with those holy Prophets and Martyrs who rejoyce over *Babylon*, and her
 “ Abominations (in whom their Blood is found) and against whom he was a
 “ faithful Witness and valiant Warriour, whose Living and absolute Testi-
 “ mony therein God hath blessed and made prosperous, and will fulfil to the
 “ uttermost: And though he be ceased from his Labours, his Works do follow
 “ him, which will be had in living Remembrance and precious Esteem among
 “ the Upright, when his Persecutors shall be broken and laid low in the
 “ Desolation and Ruin of *Babylon*, and all that continue in Enmity and Deceit,
 “ and all the deceitful Spirits that have burdened his righteous Soul, shall fall,
 “ and their Blossom wither and come to nought.

“ And if any of his Persecutors or Oppressors be yet so impenitent and
 “ obdurate as to triumph, and be elevated in an exalted or prejudiced
 “ Spirit because of his Death, and in their Exaltation and Pride of Heart
 “ say, *He was taken away in Judgment, or in Wrath.* To such in God's Fear
 “ I answer, that Thousands of the Servants of the Lord are of another Per-
 “ fuaſion, not questioning but it was in God's tender Love (as to his own
 “ Particular) that he was removed out of the Earthen Vessel, in which he
 “ (though a Man in the Prime of his Years) endured great Travails in his
 “ Time for the Truth's Sake, and the Gathering of many into the Way of
 “ the Lord, and in which his Travail was the greater, when the Time of
 “ his *Dissolution* drew near, because of his Sufferings, and the Extremity of
 “ his Sickness occasioned thereby, which many others were Partakers of,
 “ who suffered Persecution and Imprisonment by unreasonable Men in this
 “ City of *London*, for the Cause of God and of a good Conscience, and
 “ chiefly for their meeting together singly in the Worship of God. But this
 “ I testify in the Lord, as in him I have felt, that his being removed was in
 “ Judgment from the Lord against his Persecutors, who desired and sought
 “ his Destruction, and what they have done against him hath greatly added
 “ to the fulfilling of their Iniquities, and the Blood of the Righteous
 “ cries for Vengeance against them, who would not suffer the Righteous to
 “ have a Being amongst Men, nor lay to Heart their being taken away from
 “ the Evil to come.

“ And

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“ And they who in a byassed or prejudiced Spirit of Enmity are lifted up because of his Deceale, they were not worthy of him, nor of his Testimony, and they have Cause to mourn and lament amongst those that have pierced the Just, and slighted and despised the Messengers of Truth and Righteousness, whom God hath therein honoured, and God will debase such and their Vain-glory unto the Dust, and exalt the Testimony and Life of his faithful Witnesses over all their Heads.

“ But we who have been well acquainted with the deep Suffering of the Righteous Seed, and with the Worth of true Unity in the weighty Body and Spirit of Christ, and therein do behold the Glory and Compleatness of the City of God, which is at Peace within it self, cannot but prize the Ministers of Righteousness, and every Member of the same Body: And, O how blessed and precious is the Memorial of the Righteous in our Eyes, and how deeply is my Soul affected with the comfortable Communion, and those many and living Refreshments that we have enjoyed one with another, even with him and others who have finished their Course. Well, however in this I am satisfied, that though we be left in Travail, and our Days have been Days of Affliction and Suffering for Christ and the Gospel's Sake (as in this World) yet in him, whom the Prince of this World hath nothing in, we have Peace, being come into Communion with the Spirits of just Men, who are the Family of God, written in Heaven, and called by one Name both in Heaven and Earth, and the God of Life is their Portion, and his Glory is the Reward of his called, and chosen, and faithful Ones, who have dealt their Bread to the Hungry, and brought the Poor to their Houses, even to the Habitation of the Righteous, where the living Bread is received, and the Heavenly Mansions lived in and enjoyed by all who abide in the Truth, and retain their first Love and Habitation therein, in which true Fellowship is enjoyed, and the Prosperity of the Elect Seed known. Blessed be the Name of our God for ever and ever.

London, the 12th Day of
the First Month 1663.

“ GEORGE WHITEHEAD.”

This Testimony carries with it a divine Relish of that inward and sweet Communion and Fellowship, which Brethren united by the Love of Christ have a mutual Participation of, and which, surmounting all the Powers of Death and Darkness, centers in the Fruition of everlasting Bliss and a glorious Immortality.

7 Others died
soon after
their Dis-
charge.

Beside the before-mentioned twenty who died in Prison, seven others, viz. Humphry Bache, Humphry Brewster, Richard Davis, Humphry Leaver, Robert Cross, Thomas Wingreen, and John Ratcliff, had their Bodies so weakened and corrupted through Sickness contracted there, that they died soon after their Discharge.

Sir John Ro-
binson Lord-
Mayor.

Shut out of
their Meeting-
place, they met
in the Street.

Their rugged
Usage.

The Mayor in
attempting to
ride over them
is thrown from
his Horse.

ANNO 1663. In this Year Sir John Robinson, Lieutenant of the Tower, was Lord-Mayor: He ordered a Guard to be placed at the Entrance of the Bull and Mouth Meeting-house to prevent any Persons going in: Thus shut out, they met as near the Door in the Street as possible, and there tarried their usual Meeting-Time: When any among them did preach or pray, they were presently haled away to Prison. This continued many Weeks. It happened one First-day, that the Mayor, with his Officers and the two Sheriffs, came from Paul's thither, and when the People dispersed not at his Command, he ordered his Officers to strike, who with their Canes and Sticks laid on most unmercifully on the Heads both of Men and Women; the Mayor himself also struck several, and spurred his prancing Horse in order to ride over them, but the Horse, to avoid that, rose up so strait on his Hind-legs, that the Mayor fell off backward into the Kennel, and, being helpt up again, would have repeated his Abuses, had not the Sheriffs, who were more moderate, and indeed ashamed of his Actions, persuaded him to depart.

About

01 About this Time Meetings were held at *Thomas Lacey's* House in the Parish called *St. Katherine's* near the *Tower*, from one of which the Assembly was dragged out by the Officers of the *Militia*, and the said *Thomas Lacey*, and three others, by the Mayor's Order, sent to *Newgate*.

On the 24th of the Month called *May* this Year, at a Meeting at *Tanner's-End* near *Edmonton*, a Constable came in with a Company of Debauchees cursing and swearing, and said to *Solomon Eccles* then preaching, *Come, you must go along with me.* *Solomon* replied, *Hast thou a Warrant?* So he produced an old Warrant of no Force as to him or others there, who therefore refused to go: Whereupon the Constable's rude Assistants fell violently to haling, pulling, and dragging them out by the Legs and Arms, and threw them one upon another into the Highway-side; then the Constable got a Cart, and caused them to be thrown by Force into it; but they came out again, and then they threw them up with more Violence than before, to the bruising of their Bodies: One of them they fastened to the Cart with a Rope, and tied the Legs of several others, and so drove them away to *Henry Wroth*, a Justice at *Enfield*, who standing at his Gate, said, *Bring them in, bring them in, I'll tender them the Oath of Allegiance: I know they will not take it.* He did so, and after many Scoffs and Abuses from himself, his Son, and others in his Presence, committed them to *Newgate*. The Names of some of them were, *Solomon Eccles*, *Clement Webb*, *John Goodwin*, *William Guppy*, *Joseph Bryan*, *Laurence Aplin*, and *David Smith*. The said *Solomon Eccles*, at the Time of *Bartholomew Fair*, passed through *Smithfield* with his Body naked, and a Pan of Fire and Brimstone burning on his Head, calling to the People to Repent, and remember *Sodom*: One *Thomas Taunton* accompanied him, carrying his Clothes. This well meant Zeal of his met with ill Reception, the common Lot of prophetick Monitors from the Despisers of Instruction. *Eccles* was committed to *Bridewell*, and his Companion to *Newgate*.

On the 22d of the Month called *March*, *John Higgins*, preaching at the *Peel Meeting*, was violently taken away by Constables: A Stander by, *Thomas Archer*, asking, by what Authority they did so, they took him away also, and his Brother *John Archer*, and carried them all to the Sessions-house, where the Justices then sat, who tendered them the Oath of Allegiance, and sent them to *Newgate*.

A few Days after, *Percival Towle*, a Baker of *Ratcliff*, was also committed to *Newgate* for not pulling off his Hat as he passed by the Lord-Mayor and *Richard Brown* in the Street.

ANNO 1664. A new Law was now put in force, intituled, *An Act to prevent and suppress seditious Conventicles*, by which the Penalty for the first Offence in Meeting was a Fine at the Pleasure of the Justices not exceeding 5 l. or Imprisonment not exceeding three Months; for the second Offence a Fine not exceeding 10 l. or Imprisonment not exceeding six Months; and for the third Offence, Transportation, or to pay 100 l. Escape, or Return from Transportation, was made Felony without Benefit of the Clergy. All Officers of Militia, as well as Civil Magistrates, were empowered to disperse all such Meetings, and take the Persons assembled into Custody. This Act was to commence the 1st of *July*, and to continue in force three Years.

Hereupon Multitudes were soon imprisoned for the first and second Offence, which was usually in a few Days, not in Favour to them, but to bring them the sooner under the Penalty of Transportation for the third Offence; for their long approved Constancy gave their Adversaries an Assurance of finding them again at their religious Assemblies as soon as at Liberty.

On the 17th of the Month called *July*, two Justices, with Constables and armed Soldiers, came to the Meeting at *Mile-end-Green*, and placed a Guard at each Gate: After some Time *Alexander Parker* stood up to speak, beginning with these Words, *In the Name of the Lord*, upon which one of the Justices rushed into the Meeting, profanely crying out, *In the Name of the Devil pluck that Fellow down*, which was presently done. Then the Justices took the

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T. Lacey and others sent to Newgate. Transactions at a Meeting near Edmonton. Obsolete Warrant.

Several sent to Newgate. Extraordinary Act of S. Eccles.

Imprisonment of J. Higgins and others.

Commitment of P. Towle.

Act for Banishment.

Multitudes imprisoned.

Profane Speech of a Justice.

LONDON, Names of all the Men Friends present, being thirty two, and sent them to
 &c. Newgate by the following *Mittimus*, viz.
 1664.

“ Midd^s /s.

“ To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal of Newgate, or his
 “ sufficient Deputy. These

Mittimus of
 32 to New-
 gate.

“ WE send you herewith the Bodies of the several Persons hereunder
 “ named, for being taken this Day at an unlawful Meeting, contrary
 “ to the Act intituled, *An Act to prevent and suppress seditious Conventicles*,
 “ made in the sixteenth Year of his Majesty's Reign, and for refusing to pay
 “ their several and respective Sums of Money by us imposed upon them, upon
 “ their Conviction for their several Contempts, according to the Intent of
 “ the said Act. You are therefore to have them in safe Custody, and there to
 “ detain without Bail or Mainprize, for the Space of three Months, it being
 “ for their first Offence. Hereof fail not, and this shall be your sufficient
 “ Warrant. Given under our Hands and Seals this 17th Day of July, Anno
 “ Dom. 1664.

“ WILLIAM RYDER,

“ GEORGE MARSH.”

27 Sent to
 Newgate for
 three Days.

On the 24th of the same Month, a Captain with Soldiers, Constables, and others, came to the Meeting at *Wheeler-street*: The Captain went in and brought out one by one twenty seven Persons to the Constables and their Guard: Presently after two Justices came, laid several small Fines upon them, and sent them to *Newgate* for three Days.

22 For six
 Days.

On the same Day at *Mile-end-Green* a Constable came to the Meeting with Soldiers and Watchmen, who by his Command seized every one a Man, and so led twenty two of them to the *Tower*, whence they were sent by two Justices to *Newgate* for six Days.

15 For five
 Days.

On the 31st at the same Place they took away fifteen Persons to an Inn, where some Justices were met, who ordered them to *Newgate* for five Days.

32 For four
 Days.

A Clause in
 their Mitti-
 mus.

On the 7th of the Month called *August*, twenty Persons were sent from *Wheeler-street* Meeting to *Newgate*, and thirty two from *Mile-end-Green* for four Days, with this Clause at the End of their *Mittimus*, “ You are also
 “ hereby required to take Notice, that if any of the Persons herein mentioned
 “ have been with you committed for the first and second Offence, that then
 “ you are to detain such Persons until they shall be from you enlarged by his
 “ Majesty's Laws.” Eighteen others, who were not free to tell their Names, were committed by a Description of their Persons.

19 Sent to
 Newgate for
 two Days.

On the 14th, nineteen were sent to *Newgate* for two Days, and two others for the third Offence.

At Bull and
 Mouth Meet-
 ing, near 200
 sent to New-
 gate at Mid-
 night, and put
 among Felons.

On the same Day, the Sheriffs, with many Officers and others armed, entred the Meeting-house at the *Bull and Mouth* in the Forenoon, and commanded him that was preaching to come down: After which two of the Officers stept up on a Form near him, drew their Swords, and struck him and another Friend, so that one of their Swords was broken: Then they laid hold both on Men and Women, and haling out near * two Hundred, drove them to *Guild-hall*, where they were kept close Prisoners till about Midnight, and then by the Mayor's Order conducted with lighted Torches by a Guard of Halberdiers to

* Among these was *Albertus Otto Faber*, a German Physician, whom Sir *Roger L'Esfrange* informed against, as a Jesuit, but upon Examination could prove nothing; so they find him 5l. and sent him to the *Poultry-Counter* for three Months. They took at the same Time *Roger Ellis* in the Street, who had not been at the Meeting, yet was sent to Prison, and continued there for not finding Sureries.

to Newgate, where they were thrust up among the Felons. On the 16th in the Afternoon, about twenty of them were fined by the Mayor and recommitting, as were twelve more on the 17th, and about sixty others on the 19th, some for fourteen and others for nine Days: Henry Day for one Month, and Wilkith Bedford for three.

While these Prisoners lay in Newgate, which from a Den of Thieves was now become an House of Prayer, they frequently met together there to wait upon God and worship him. At one of those Meetings on the 16th of the Month called August, one of the Keepers took the Preacher away into the condemned Hole; and on the 18th, when the Keeper could not easily come at the Preacher, because of many others standing about him, he struck both Men and Women with a great Staff, and encouraged some of the Felons to beat them with their Fists; and one Woman, a Thief, ran in among them with a Knife, attempting to stab them, but was prevented. At length the Preacher was taken away and put into another Part of the Prison.

On the 21st were committed to Newgate from Mile-end-Green eleven Persons for two Days, and from the Peel twenty nine Persons for four Days. On the same Day, about nine in the Morning, the City Marshal and other Officers, with Constables and their Assistants, came to the Bull and Mouth Meeting, and haled out by Force all or most present, and then withdrew into the Street, where the Assembly continued, and soon after, the Doors being open'd, returned into the House, where one began to preach, but was instantly haled out and sent to Guild-hall. The Meeting still continuing, the Lord Mayor, with the Sheriffs, and Alderman Brown, came in; Brown, with his wonted Fury, kickt some, pulled others by the Hair, and pinched the Women's Arms till they were black; and thus with his own Hands shamefully abused many. The Mayor, causing the Door to be shut, sent about one Hundred and fifty nine of them to Newgate for four Days, where they had not Room to sit down, nor scarce to stand, being close shut up, without respect to Age or Sex, among Felons and Murderers. The rest of them, about twenty seven, were sent to Bridewell.

On the 28th, six from the Peel, thirty four from Mile-end-Green, and thirty three from Wheeler-Street, were sent to Newgate. The same Day were committed by the Mayor and Alderman Brown, from the Bull and Mouth, one Hundred and two Persons, most of them to Newgate, the Rest to Bridewell, being carried thither through Back-ways and Alleys, as privately as might be.

On the 4th of September, forty six Persons from the Peel, one Hundred and thirty nine from the Bull and Mouth, thirty one from Wheeler-Street, and sixteen from Mile-end-Green, were committed to Newgate; and on the same Day fourteen from the Bull and Mouth, were also committed by the following Warrant, viz.

“ London is.

“ WE, whose Names are hereunder written, two of his Majesty's Justices, assigned for Preservation of his Majesty's Peace, within the City of London and Liberties thereof, have herewith sent you the Bodies of the several Persons following, viz. John Alderton, of the Parish of St. Botolph without Aldgate, London, Weaver; Laurence Aplin, of Snow-hill, London, Plateworker; Thomas Davis, of the Parish of St. Olaves, Southwark, Glover; Mary Davis, Wife of Thomas Davis, of the Maze in Southwark, Glover; Christian Ford, Spinster, Daughter of Edward Ford of Chick-lane, London, Trumpeter; George Hollingworth, of the Parish of St. Sepulchre's, London, Carpenter; Rachel Jackson, Spinster, lodging at William Woodward's House in Christ-Church Parish, London; John Lewis of Paul's Wharf, London, Porter; John Mason, Servant of Henry North, of East-Cheap, London; Richard Poulton, of Broad-street, London, Silversmith; Thomas Parker, lodging at John Welch's House in Horslydown, Barber; Hannah Picket,

LONDON,
8c.
1664.

Newgate
from a Den
of Thieves
become an
House of
Prayer.

Violence of
the Keeper.

40 More com-
mitted to
Newgate.

159 Sent to
Newgate.

175 Sent to
Newgate.

232 Sent to
Newgate.

Warrant for
Commitment
of 14 others.

LONDON, "Picket, Spinster, at Richard Greenway's House in Black-Fryars, London,
 &c. "Taylor; Thomas Robins, Servant to Thomas Beadle, of the Old-Exchange,
 1664. "London, Shoemaker; and Sarah Willoughby, Wife of John Willoughby, of
 "Shoreditch in the County of Middlesex, Shoemaker; every of them being
 "apprehended this 4th Day of September 1664, being the Lord's Day, in an
 "unlawful Assembly, at a Place called the Bull and Mouth, situate in the
 "Parish of St. Anne and Agnes, in the Ward of Aldersgate, London, under Colour
 "of Exercise of Religion, contrary to an Act of Parliament, intituled, *An Act*
 "to prevent and suppress seditious Conventicles, and they, and every of them,
 "having been heretofore convicted of a first and second Offence contrary to
 "the said Act. And we do in his Majesty's Name hereby require you,
 "in Pursuance of the said Act, to keep them, and every of them, without
 "Bail or Mainprize, until they shall be discharged by due Course of Law,
 "and this shall be your Warrant therein. This 4th Day of September 1664.

To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal at Newgate. "ANTHONY BATEMAN Mayor,
 "RICHARD BROWN.

Vera Copia Exam. per Thomam Witton Cl^r. Newgate.

On the 7th of September, the fourth of the Week, the City Marshal, with
 Constables and others, came to the Bull and Mouth Meeting, and carried many
 from thence to the Lodge at Newgate, where the Goaler required their Names,
 which they refused to give him, as having no Authority to examine them;
 whereupon one of the Keepers thrust some of them into the Dungeon, and
 kept others on the Master's Side, till the Justices, then sitting at the Old-Bailey,
 were acquainted of the Matter, who sent for them, and committed twenty to
 Newgate, and some to Bridewell.

On the same Day at the Sessions in the Old-Bailey, Judge Keeling made a
 Speech to the Grand Jury against the Quakers, as follows, viz.

"BECAUSE this Day was appointed for the Trial of these People,
 "and inasmuch as many are come hither, expecting what will be done,
 "I shall say something concerning them and their Principles, that they might
 "not be thought worthy of Pity, as suffering more than they deserve; for
 "they are a stubborn Sect, and the King has been very merciful to them. It
 "was hoped that the Purity of the Church of England would e'er this have
 "convinced them, but they will not be reclaimed.

"They teach dangerous Principles, this for one, *That it is not lawful to*
 "*take an Oath.* You must not think their Leaders believe this Doctrine,
 "only they persuade these poor ignorant Souls so; but they have an Interest
 "to carry on against the Government, and therefore they will not swear Sub-
 "jection to it, and their End is Rebellion and Blood. You may easily
 "know, that they do not believe themselves what they say, when they say it
 "*is not lawful to take an Oath,* if you look into the Scriptures; that Text,
 "*(Mat. v.)* where our Saviour saith, *Swear not at all,* will clear it self from
 "such a Meaning as forbids Swearing, if you look but into the next Words,
 "where it is said, *Let your Communication be yea, yea, nay, nay;* and it is
 "said, *An Oath is an End of all Strife;* this for the *New-Testament*: And the
 "*Old* is positive for Swearing: And they that deny Swearing, deny God a
 "special Part of his Worship.

"Now you shall see how this Principle of *Not Swearing* tends to the
 "Subversion of the Government; *First,* It denies the King the Security he
 "ought to have of his Subjects for their Allegiance, which Oath they deny,
 "and Security by Bond is not so good; for thereby they are not engaged in
 "Conscience, and they will only wait for a convenient Season to forfeit their
 "Bonds without Hazard, and make sure Work in overthrowing the present
 "Government,

20 Sent to
 Newgate,
 and some to
 Bridewell.

Judge Keel-
 ing's Speech
 to the Grand
 Jury.

“ Government, and secure their own Securities ; but an Oath binds the Con-
 “ science at all Times, and that they cannot abide. *Again,* This Principle
 “ tends to subvert the Government, because without Swearing we can have
 “ no Justice done, no Law executed, you may be robbed, your Houses
 “ broke open, your Goods taken away, and be injured in your Persons,
 “ and no Justice or Recompence can be had, because the Fact cannot be
 “ proved : The Truth is, no Government can stand without Swearing ; and
 “ were these People to have a Government among themselves, they could not
 “ live without an Oath.

“ Whereas they pretend in their Scribbles, that this Act against Conven-
 “ ticles doth not concern them, but such, as under Pretence of worshipping
 “ God, do at their Meetings conspire against the Government. This is a
 “ Mistake ; for if they should conspire, they would then be guilty of Treason,
 “ and we should try them by other Laws : But this Act is against Meetings,
 “ to prevent them of such Conspiracy ; for they meet to consult to know
 “ their Numbers, and to hold Correspondency, that they may in a short
 “ Time be up in Arms.

“ I had the Honour to serve the King at York, upon the Trial of those
 “ wicked Plotters, and we found those Plots were hatched and carried on in
 “ these Meetings, and we hanged up four or five of the * Speakers or Praters,
 “ whom we found to be chief Leaders in that Rebellion. I warrant you
 “ their Leaders will keep themselves from the third Offence, we shall not
 “ take them : If we could catch their Leaders, we should try them by some
 “ other Law, which, if executed, will take away their Lives. This is a mer-
 “ ciful Law, it takes not away their Estates, it leaves them entire, only
 “ banishes them for seven Years, if they will not pay an Hundred Pounds :
 “ And this is not for worshipping God according to their Consciences, for
 “ that they may do in their Families, but forsooth they cannot do that, but
 “ they must have thirty, forty, or an hundred others to contrive their De-
 “ signs withal.”

When the Judge made this Speech, he intended to have proceeded that
 Sessions to the Trial of some of that People, but did not ; for one only, whom
 he purposed to begin with, was brought from *Newgate*, a young Lad, whom
 he asked, *if he were not at the Bull and Mouth such a Day.* The Youth
 answered, *I was not :* Then the Judge took Occasion to reproach the *Quakers*,
 saying, *That for all their Pretensions to Truth and Plainness, they could lie for*
Interest and to avoid Suffering. Then he asked the Lad the same Question
 again, and he answered as before ; for indeed he was not there that Day.
 Then said the Judge, *We shall prove that you were there, will you stand to your*
Profession ? Yes, replied the Lad, *and seal it with my Blood.* Then were Wit-
 nesses called to prove that he was at the *Bull and Mouth* such a Day, but none
 appeared. Then the Judge, perceiving that no Witnesses could be found
 sufficient to convict this Lad and the Rest, said, *There is a Disappointment,*
 and threatened some should suffer for it, and so dismissed the Jury. But this Disap-
 pointment was only for want of Evidence to answer the Purpose of the Court.
 After which it was ordered that the Goalers of *Newgate*, and the Marshal and
 his Men, should be at Meetings, and prepare themselves to give Evidence
 against the next Sessions.

On the 10th of the same Month, the Bodies of two deceased Persons, lately
 Prisoners, were brought to the *Bull and Mouth* Meeting-house, in order to be
 buried from thence the next Day. Upon Information of which the following
 Warrant was issued, *viz.*

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“ London

LONDON,

&c.

1664.

*The Judge
 disappointed
 of his Pur-
 pose.*

*Notable Con-
 stancy of a
 young Lad.*

*The Goalers,
 Marshal, and
 their Men, or-
 der'd to be
 Evidences.*

* N. B. This Speech was replied to in Print, and his false Assertions set forth, in the Year 1664.

LONDON;
&c.
1664.

Warrant for
removing two
dead Corps.

“ *London* is.

“ **W**HEREAS we are informed, and find it to be so, that a certain
“ Corps or dead Body of a *Quaker*, who lived in *Cloth-Fair*, hath
“ been this Day brought out of the Parish of *St. Bartholomew's*, to the
“ *Bull and Mouth* in the City of *London*, situate in the Parish of *St. Anne and*
“ *Agnes*, with Intent from thence to be buried, and accompanied with by
“ those People the *Quakers* in way of Triumph. And whereas we are also
“ informed that another Corps or some dead Body is also this Day brought
“ from some other Place to the said *Bull and Mouth* in the said Parish. These
“ are therefore in his Majesty's Name straitly to will and require you the
“ Church-Wardens, and other Officers of the Parish of *St. Anne and Agnes*,
“ forthwith upon Sight hereof, to cause both the said Bodies to be forthwith
“ lawfully buried in the Church-yard of the said Parish this Night, without
“ fail, as you will answer the contrary at your Perils. Given under our
“ Hands and Seals this tenth Day of *September* 1664.

To the Church-Wardens
and other Officers of
St. Anne and Agnes
London.

“ **ANTHONY BATEMAN** Mayor,
“ **THOMAS ADAMS,**
“ **RICHARD BROWN,**
“ **JOHN FREDERICK.**

Pursuant to this Warrant, the City-Marshal, with two Beadles, and several Men with Halberts, knockt at the Door of the Meeting-house about Midnight, to the Surprise of those who dwelt there, who asking, *Why they came at that Time of the Night?* were answered, *To search for a Meeting.* The Doors being opened, they went in, took away the two Coffins with the dead Bodies, and carried them to the Place appointed by the Warrant.

Lord-Mayor's
Speech at en-
tering Bull and
Mouth Meet-
ing.

105 Sent to
Newgate.

On the 11th of the same Month, the Lord-Mayor, Alderman *Brown*, the Sheriffs, and several Officers and Watchmen, came to the *Bull and Mouth* Meeting; the Mayor at his Entrance expressed himself thus, “ You have been
“ warned several Times not to meet here, but if it please God, I will try
“ whether your Obstinacy or the Law shall take place.” Then he ordered his Officers to bring the Persons assembled severally before him, and he committed eighty three of them to *Newgate* for the first and second, and twenty two for the third Offence. Among these was *Mary Boreman*, who being asked by Alderman *Brown*, *What was her Name?* answered, *You may, instead of my Name, write thus, Afflict not the Widow and the Fatherless, and then when you look over the Roll you may see your Duty.* Upon this he struck her with his double Fist on the Mouth, kickt her, and abused her grievously. On the same Day twenty from *Mile-end-Green*, and fifteen from *Wheeler-street*, were sent to the same Prison.

97 Sent to
Newgate.

On the 18th were sent to *Newgate* from *Mile-end-Green* one and twenty Persons, and from the *Bull and Mouth* sixty two for the first and second Offence, and fourteen for the third.

24 Sent to
Prison.

On the 25th, twelve Persons from the *Peel* were sent to *Newgate*, and two to *Clerkenwell-Bridewell*: And the same Day ten were committed to Prison from *Mile-end-Green*.

38 Sent to
Newgate,
and two Boys
to Bridewell.

On the 2d of *October*, thirteen Persons from the *Peel*, and twenty five from *Mile-end-Green*, were sent to *Newgate*, and two Boys to *Bridewell*. On the same Day the City-Marshal, with a Company of *Halberdiers*, entred the *Bull and Mouth* Meeting, took away one who was preaching, and sent him to the Counter: Another standing up to preach was pulled down, and afterward the same Person kneeling down to Prayer was knockt down backward with a long Staff. At the Conclusion of their Meeting, they were detained by Force, and afterward conveyed to *Wood-street-Counter*, where the Keeper received them without

without any Warrant. After two Days and two Nights Confinement there, in a Room too little for them to lie down in, they were had before the Lord-Mayor, who sent thirty three of them to *Newgate*, of whom four were ordered to be detained for the *third* Offence.

On the 9th, fifty five Persons from the *Bull and Mouth* were committed to *Newgate* for the *first* and *second* Offences, and fifteen for the *Third*. And from *Mile-end-Green* sixteen were sent to *Newgate*, and from thence to *Bridewell*.

On the 10th the Sessions began at *Hicks's-hall*, and on the 13th a Bill of Indictment was laid against sixteen Quakers for the *third* Offence, about which the Grand Jury could not agree that Night, but next Morning, at the Importunity of the Justices, found the Bill by a small Majority. They were tried, and convicted at the same Time, and twelve of them, viz. *Peter Penington, Roger Roberts, Henry Taylor, Edward Boycote, Thomas Hubbard, Arthur Baker, Edward Lee, Douglas Templer, Margaret Jackson, Patience Wilson, and Hannah Trigg*, received Sentence of Transportation. The said *Hannah Trigg*, in Arrest of Judgment, produced the following Certificate, viz.

" **H**ANNAH TRIGG, Daughter of *Timothy* and *Katharine Trigg*, of *Whitechapel*, was born the 20th Day of *August* in the Year 1649.
 " These are to certify all whom it may concern, that the abovesaid is a just
 " and true Account of the Age of *Hannah Trigg*, lawful Daughter of *Timothy*
 " and *Katharine Trigg*, of *Whitechapel*: And we whose Names are hereunto
 " subscribed do testify the same, and are ready to depose it if required, we
 " being then and there present at the Delivery and Birth of the said *Hannah*
 " *Trigg*.

" **MARGERY SOUTHERN**, her Mark, I+I.

" **ELIZABETH EXELBY**, her Mark. E."

This Certificate, a manifest Proof of her being under sixteen Years of Age, was rejected by the Justices, who told her, *she lied*. In a short Time after her Sentence of Banishment, she died in *Newgate*: When dead, her Relations were not suffered to bury her; but she was carried to the Burying-place where they usually interr Felons, and others who die in the Goal. When the Bearers came to the Burying-ground, finding no Grave made, they left the Corps unburied, saying, *They would make a Grave next Morning*. The poor Girl's Mother, who was present, was extremely grieved at this inhuman Usage; but found no Remedy.

The other four, convicted at the same Time, being married Women, namely, *Joane Nichols, Hannah Garnish, Elizabeth Ford, and Mary Atwell*, were sentenced to *Bridewell* for eleven Months.

On the next Day the following Warrant was issued, viz.

" Midd^x. *js.*

" To the Sheriffs of the County of Middlesex.

" **W**HEREAS *Edward Lea*, Cordwainer, *Hannah Trigg*, Spinster, *Edward Boycott*, Chandler, *Arthur Baker*, Taylor, *Douglas Templer*, Spinster, *William Roberts*, Shoemaker, and *Margaret Jackson*, Spinster, according to the late Act of Parliament, intituled, *An Act to suppress seditious Conventicles*, stand duly and lawfully indicted and convicted, at this General-Quarter-Sessions of the Peace of our Sovereign Lord the King, holden for the County aforesaid, by Adjournment at *Hicks's-hall* in *St. John's-street* in the said County, this present Day of *October*, in the sixteenth Year of his said Majesty's Reign, before us, Sir *John Robinson* Knt. Lieutenant of his Majesty's Tower of *London*, Sir *Hugh Smithson* Knt. and Baronet, Sir *Thomas Allen* Knt. George *March*, Richard *Prosser*, Edwin *Rich*, Nathanael *Snape*, Charles *Pitfield*,
 John

LONDON,
 &c.
 1664.

86 Sent to
 Prison.

16 Indicted at
 Hicks's-hall.

12 Sentenced
 to Transporta-
 tion.

Certificate of
 H. Trigg.

Rejected.

Death of
 H. Trigg, and
 inhumane Bu-
 rial.

4 Married
 Women sent
 to Bridewell.

Warrant for
 transporting of
 7 of them.

LONDON,
&c.
1664.

" John Smith, and William Bowles Esqrs; Justices, assigned to keep the Peace
" of our Sovereign Lord the King, within the County of *Middlesex* aforesaid,
" and also to hear and determine diverse Felonies, Trespasses, and other
" Misdemeanours, done and committed within the said County of *Middlesex*,
" for that the said *Edward Lea, Hannab Trigg, Arthur Baker, Dowglas Templer,*
" *Edward Boycott, William Roberts, Margaret Jackson,* and every of them,
" being of the Age of sixteen Years and upwards, and Subjects of this Realm;
" after two several former Convictions against them and every of them in this
" Behalf had, were, and every of them was present at an unlawful Assembly
" and Meeting together in this County, with diverse other disobedient Per-
" sons, to the Number of twenty Persons, over and above the Persons
" inhabiting in the several Places of their several Meetings, under Colour
" and Pretence of some Exercise of Religion, in other Manner than is allowed
" by the Liturgy or Practice of the Church of *England*, contrary to the
" Form of the said late Act of Parliament. And thereupon Judgment is
" now given and entred against the before-named Persons and every of them,
" for their said Offences. These are therefore in his Majesty's Name to will
" and command you to convey the said *Edward Lea, Hannab Trigg, Arthur*
" *Baker, Dowglas Templer, Edward Boycott, William Roberts, and Margaret*
" *Jackson,* to the Port of *London*, and thence to embark them, and every of
" them, to be safely transported to the Island of *Barbadoes*, being one of his
" Majesty's foreign Plantations, there to remain for seven Years, and hereof
" you may not fail at your Peril. Given under our Hands and Seals at
" *Hicks's-hall* the aforesaid 10th Day of *October*, in the sixteenth Year of his
" said Majesty's Reign.

" JOHN ROBINSON	EDWIN RICH
" HUGH SMITHSON	NATHANAEL SNAPE
" THOMAS ALLEN	CHARLES PITFIELD
" GEORGE MARCH	JOHN SMITH
" RICHARD PROSSER	WILLIAM BOWLES."

Similar War-
rants for the
Rest.

Similar Warrants were also issued for the Transportation of the other Persons sentenced as aforesaid.

Above 40 in-
dicted at the
Old-Bailey.

On the 15th of *October*, above forty Prisoners, *Quakers*, were brought to the Session's-house in the *Old-Bailey*, and called to the Bar by one, two, three, or four at a Time, as they were included in one Indictment, the Substance of which was,

Form of the
Indictment.

" **T**HAT N. N. being a Subject of this Realm, and above the Age of
" sixteen Years, on such a Day, and at such a Place, was present at a
" certain unlawful Assembly, under Colour or Pretence of Exercise of Re-
" ligion, in other Manner than is allowed by the Practice of the Church of
" *England*, at which Meetings there were twenty Persons or above assembled
" together over and above those of the same Household, and that the said
" Prisoner was of the Offence aforesaid lawfully convicted before two Justices
" of the Peace, and committed to Prison for the Space of three Days, except
" he would pay to the said Justices the Sum of one Shilling; likewise
" that he was lawfully convicted a second Time in Manner aforesaid; and that
" notwithstanding the two Convictions aforesaid, he the said Prisoner, in Con-
" tempt of the Law in that Case provided, and contrary to the Peace of our
" Lord the King, did meet a third Time in Manner aforesaid, whereof he
" stands indicted, &c."

Some pleaded
Not guilty.

About sixteen of the Prisoners, considering the Indictment as a Charge of
contemning the Law, and acting contrary to the King's Peace, of which they
knew themselves clear, pleaded *Not guilty*. Others, considering it merely as
an Accusation of being at their religious Meetings, could not deny it, and
therefore

therefore gave only general Answers, such as, *I have wronged no Man. I am innocent. I have no Evil in my Heart against any Man. I am not guilty of the Breach of any just Law. I think the Meetings at the Bull and Mouth to be lawful and peaceable. If the Laws be such that the Innocent must be banished, the Will of the Lord be done.* All these latter were set by as mute, and the Fact taken *pro confesso* by the Court, who proceeded to try the other sixteen: The Witnesses against them were the Under-Keepers of Newgate, and the Marshal's Men. The first, was * Dawson, a Turnkey, whose Behaviour and Contradiction in giving Evidence was surprising to the Jury, for having sworn that he took the Prisoner, John Hope, at the Bull and Mouth last Sunday, and being checkt for that, he said, *The Sunday before*, both which were notoriously false, the Prisoner having been in Goal three Weeks. Afterward he said, that the Prisoner was brought out to him, and that he did not see him in the Meeting. Upon this one of the Jury spake thus to the Judges, *My Lord, I beseech you, let us be troubled no more with such Evidence, such Witnesses will make us tedious Work, and we shall not cast Men upon such Evidence.* But the Judge, named Hide, endeavoured to palliate the Evidence, and reproved the Jurymen for being too scrupulous.

Another Evidence was William Turner, a Turnkey too, who being asked, *Whether the Person at the Bar was at the Bull and Mouth such a Day*, answered, *He was there that Day, he came with the Constable.* The Jury had good Reason to scruple his Testimony, who was so hardy as to swear, *The Prisoner was at the Bull and Mouth*, though he saw him not till he was brought to Newgate. When one of the Jury objected to this Evidence, the Judge was angry, and threatened him for undervaluing the King's Witnesses, saying, *He should know the Court had Power to punish him, and would do it.* After some Time the Jury was sent out, and the Court adjourned till five in the Afternoon. About six, the Jury brought in their Verdict, viz. *That four of the Prisoners were not guilty, and the Rest they could not agree on.* The Judge hereat seemed much displeased, and having given them farther Instructions sent them out again. About an Hour after they returned with this Verdict in Writing, *Guilty of Meeting, but not of Fact.* The Judge asked, *What do you mean by Not guilty of Fact?* The Jury replied, *Here is Evidence, that they met at the Bull and Mouth, therefore we say Guilty of Meeting; but no Evidence to prove what they did there; therefore we say, Not guilty of meeting contrary to the Liturgy of the Church of England.*

The Judge asked some of the Jury, *Whether they did not believe in their Consciences, that they were there under Colour and Pretence of Worship?* To which one of them replied, *I do believe in my Conscience, that they were met to worship in Deed and in Truth.* Another of them said, *My Lord, I have that venerable Respect for the Liturgy of the Church of England, as to believe that it is according to the Scriptures, which allow of the Worship of God in Spirit and in Truth, and if any Man in the World worship God in the Spirit, he doth not worship contrary to the Liturgy, it being according to the Scriptures, if not, I shall abate my Respect for it.* In short, neither Persuasions, nor Threats, could induce the Jury to bring in any other Verdict, for though six of them seemed at last inclinable to comply with the Court, the Others would not. Then Judge Hide, after more Threats, took the Names of those six who stood out, and told them, *They should be bound to answer for their Misdemeanour at the King's Bench Bar, the first Day of the next Term.* One of them seemed unwilling to be bound, but the Judge told him, *he must and should.* Then said he, *My Lord, I am content, any wounding, but the wounding of my Conscience.* So they were bound in an Hundred Pounds each, to appear at the King's Bench-Bar the first Day of the next Term.

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Then

* This Dawson was observed by some never to thrive after he had given this Evidence, but became melancholy, could eat little, pined away, and died about ten Weeks after.

LONDON,

&c.

1664.

Others set by as mute, and the Fact taken pro confesso. Uncertain Evidence.

The Jury scrupling the Evidence are threatened by the Judge. Verdict.

The Jury sent back.

Verdict in Writing.

The Jury stand to the Verdict given.

Stout Answer of a Jurymen.

LONDON,

1664.

Sentence
passed on four
married Wo-
men to be sent
to Bridewell
for twelve
Months, or to
pay 40l.
Women's
Reply.
19 Others
brought to
the Bar.

Among them
a Boy under
sixteen.

Sentenced to
Transporta-
tion.

About 60 sent
to Newgate.

51 More sent
to Newgate.

60 More sent
thither.

D. Doore's
Minimus.

About an 100
sent to New-
gate.

Then the Court adjourned to the 17th, when those who had been set by, and the Fact taken *pro Confesso*, were brought to the Bar to receive Sentence. First, four married Women, namely, Susan Allen, Ellen Edmonds, Alice Aldridge, and Isabel Trevilian, to whom the Recorder said, You have been twice convicted upon Record for being at an unlawful Meeting, and now you stand convicted the third Time: You shall be committed to the House of Correction for the Space of twelve Months, unless your Husbands will pay forty Pounds for each of you. After some Pause, he said, The Court is willing to shew you Favour, and to abate of the forty Pounds, and take twenty Pounds. To which the Women replied, If you would take forty or twenty Farthings, we would not give it. Then the Rest, namely, John Peckell, Thomas Kent, John Rance, Thomas Hodge, Thomas Robins, John Johnson, Thomas Parker, Robert Allen, Richard Poulton, Deborah Harding, Elizabeth Fisher, Rachel Jackson, Jane Powel, Rose Atkins, Anne Hornblow, Christian Ford, Anne Mercer, Elizabeth Ivers, and Mary Middleton, were brought to the Bar. One of them, Richard Poulton, was a Boy about fifteen Years of Age, to whom the Recorder said, Little Boy, will you promise to go to Church, and hear Common Prayer? A Turnkey standing by, said, My Lord, I believe he will, if he were away from the Rest. Then the Boy was brought up to the Clerk's Table, where he shewed a Certificate that he was not sixteen Years of Age. The Recorder asked him, Whether he would Swear, that Certificate came from the Parish where he was born? Another asked him, Whether he would Swear he was not sixteen Years of Age? The Boy answered, I was not brought up to Swearing. And being asked again, Whether he would promise to go to Church? He replied, I shall promise no such Thing. So the Recorder passed Sentence on him with the other eighteen, thus, You and every of you shall be transported beyond the Seas, the Men to Barbadoes, and the Women to Jamaica, being two of his Majesty's Plantations, there to remain seven Years.

On the 16th of October, at the Bull and Mouth, George Whitehead preaching, a Company armed with Halberts came in, shut the Doors, and kept others out, yet themselves stood quiet and heard, near an Hour, till the Mayor and Alderman Richard Brown came, who committed George and forty four others to Newgate, beside fifteen more, whom they charged by a particular Warrant for the third Offence.

On the 23d, twenty four Persons from Wheeler-street were sent to Newgate, and on the 30th, from Mile-end-Green nineteen, and from Wheeler-street eight.

On the 4th of November, were committed from Wheeler-street fourteen; on the 6th, from Mile-end-Green nine; and from the Bull and Mouth thirteen; on the 13th, from the Bull and Mouth twenty four. On the 20th, Dorothy Doore was imprisoned by the following *Minimus*, viz.

“ WE send you herewith the Body of Dorothy Doore, being taken preach-
“ ing in the Street, among a Company of People unlawfully gathered
“ together about her, contrary to the Laws of this Realm made for the Pro-
“ hibition of unlawful Assemblies, encouraging People to persist in their un-
“ lawful Assemblies, and not to fear any Man; requiring you in his Majesty's
“ Name, to receive her the said Dorothy Doore, and detain and keep her in
“ your safe Custody, until she be delivered by due Course of Law, and this
“ shall be your sufficient Warrant. Dated this 20th Day of November 1664.

To the Keeper of
Newgate.

“ THOMAS BYDE,
“ CHARLES PITFIELD.”

On the same Day, Ralph Young and another were sent to Newgate for re-
fusing to take the Oath of Allegiance; also eighteen Persons from the Meeting
at Mile-end-Green, and forty two from that at the Bull and Mouth. On the
27th, from Mile-end-Green seven, and from the Bull and Mouth thirty one.

On

On the 1st of December, seven Persons were sent to Newgate from the Bull and Mouth, and on the 4th, twenty four.

At a Sessions at Hick's-hall, on the 6th of December, Edward Berkley, Degory Marshall, John Noble, Edward Maletrot, William Matthew, William Brend, Nathaniel Harding, Francis Tarcy, John Terry, John Godwin, Vincent Gerard, and Martin Grosbe, were tried and sentenced to be transported to Jamaica: Their Trials were short, the Judges seeming determin'd, and the Jury ready to act by their Direction. When one of the Prisoners asked, *Whether it were a Crime worthy of Banishment to meet to serve the Lord?* Judge Hide answered, *It's Crime enough: It's Crime enough: Set him by.* To another, asking, *If we meet really to worship God, must we suffer for that?* He answered, *Yes, that you must.* To a third, who said, *I understand that God is a Spirit, and I met to worship the Eternal God in Spirit, as he persuades my Heart and Conscience, and must I be condemned to Banishment for that?* He replied, *Yes, yes, for the Law is against it.* At that Sessions a Person standing by to hear the Trials, (though not in the Face of the Court, lest he should give Offence) the Officers haled him out. Judge Hide perceiving the Man was a Quaker, ordered him to be brought to the Bar, which was done, with his Hat taken off: The Judge ordered it to be put on again, and then fined him for Contempt in not pulling it off; thus creating an Offence, and then punishing it. He also sent the same Man to Newgate for not finding Sureties for his good Behaviour.

On the 11th, Richard Greenway was sent to Newgate for preaching to the People as he stood in the Porch of one Peter Burdett in Westbury-street. The same Day were committed to the same Prison, from the Meeting at Mile-end-Green, eight Persons; and from the Bull and Mouth nineteen; and on the 14th, from the Bull and Mouth, seven.

On the 14th, at the Sessions in the Old-Bailey, William Newman, John Claus, James Carter, William Parker, Thomas Cox, Mabel Wheeler, Benjamin Greenwell, John Chaplin, Manasseb Howard, Laurence Fullove, Edmund Overed, Elizabeth Pike, Isabel Hacker, James Pearne, Thomas Vosse, Laurence Aplin, Rebecca Trump, Anne Royley, Elizabeth Harding, and Anne Priest, were tried and convicted, and sentenced also to be transported to the Island of Jamaica for seven Years. John Claus pleaded that he was a Foreigner, and therefore not within the Reach of the Act; but this Plea, however just, was over-ruled by the Court.

On the 1st of the Month called January, thirty four Persons from the Bull and Mouth were sent to Newgate. At the same Time two Women, one of them above sixty, and an aged Man, were sent to Bridewell, and ordered to be whipt. On the 8th, nineteen from the Bull and Mouth were sent to Newgate; and on the 15th, both Men and Women, assembled at the Bull and Mouth, were drove by the City-Marshal from thence to the Counter, there detained two Days and two Nights, and afterwards sent to Newgate. It happen'd at one of those Commitments, a Prisoner, named Thomas White, told Alderman Brown, that he thought he had filled up the Measure of his Wickedness; at which the Alderman incensed, struck him on the Face and kickt him.

At the next Sessions, held at Hick's-hall on the 12th, and at the Old-Bailey on the 16th of the Month called January, thirty six more received Sentence of Banishment, namely, Robert Hayes, Robert Pate, John Fox, John Tilby, Edward Walker, John Tisdell, William Garrald, John Crane, Matthias Gardener, George Taylor, Richard Lambert, Evan Jones, William Tilby, William Tillett, Isaac How, Edward Bull, James Harding, George Evan, John Mason, Josiah Clare, Christopher Dickinson, Isaac Warner, Edward Brush, Richard Smith, Mary Powell, Anne Dance, Elizabeth Dixon, Katharine Charles, Susanna Horn, Dorothy Hall, Alice Richardson, Margaret Usher, Thomas Stokes, Thomas Clark, Thomas Barbuke, and Bartholomew Hearne. One of the Jury, named Thomas Leader, was afterward much troubled in Conscience for consenting to a Verdict against these Persons, infomuch that he published a Paper in Print under the Title of *The wounded Heart, or the Juryman's Offences declared.* By which publick Acknowledgment he

LONDON,
1664.

31 More committed.

Trial of 12 Others.

Sentenced to Transportation.

Abrupt Answer of Judge Hide.

An Offence made on purpose to be punished.

About 35 sent to Prison.

20 Others tried and sentenced to Transportation.

A just Plea over-ruled.

55 Sent to Prison.

36 More sentenced to Banishment.

A Juryman being troubled in Mind expressed his Penitence.

LONDON, he found some Ease in his own Mind, and shewed himself truly penitent for the Wrong done to his innocent Neighbours.

&c.
1664.

99 Sentenced
to Transporta-
tion.

Singular Case
of J. Otter.

96 More im-
prisoned.

About 120
sent to Prison.

11 Imprisoned.

24 More sen-
tenced to Ba-
nishment.

4 Sentenced to
Bridewell.

16 Sent to
Newgate.

Wanton Infor-
mation of a
Vintner.

23 Sent to
Newgate.

10 Sentenced
to Transporta-
tion.

A feme Covert
to Bridewell.

Death of
25 Persons in
Newgate.

There were now in *Newgate*, under Sentence of Transportation, ninety nine Persons; one of whom, *John Otter*, a Shoemaker, taken at a Meeting at *Mile-end*, and being asked by the Justices, *Where he dwelt?* answered, *I have a Dwelling, where neither Thief, Murderer, nor Persecutor can come.* Being again asked, *Where that was?* He answered, *In God.* Upon which the Justices sent him to *Bridewell* as a Vagabond. At the Sessions he was brought to the Bar, and the Judge asked him, *Where was his Dwelling-place?* To which he answered as before. Upon this the Judge, after a short Consultation with the other Justices, pronounced Sentence of Transportation against him: And he was afterward transported, with three Malefactors, to *Virginia*, there to be sold as a Slave for seven Years.

On the 22d of the Month called *January*, *John Tysoe* was taken preaching at *Wheeler-street* Meeting, and sent to *Newgate*, whither twenty four others were also sent the same Day from a Meeting at the *Peel*: On that Day also sixteen Persons were carried from the *Bull* and *Mouth* Meeting to *Wood-street-Counter*, where they lay two Nights on the bare Boards, and afterwards were sent to *Newgate*. On the 29th, forty eight Persons from the *Peel* were committed to the same Prison.

On the 12th of the Month called *February*, fifty Persons were sent from *Wheeler-street* Meeting to *Newgate*; and at the same Time, the Doors and outer Gate of the Meeting-house there were broken down: On the same Day also twelve were committed from the *Bull* and *Mouth*, and above forty from the *Peel*. On the 19th, several from the Meeting at *Mile-end-Green* were sent to Prison. On the 26th, five from the *Bull* and *Mouth*, and thirteen from the *Peel*.

On the 12th of the Month called *March*, *Morgan Watkins*, preaching at the *Bull* and *Mouth*, was sent to Prison with five others; and as many the same Day from the *Peel*.

On the 18th, at the Sessions at *Hicks's-hall*, twenty four more received Sentence of Banishment, viz. *John Somersfield*, *Hugh Carter*, *Bathia Marloe*, *Matthew Jackson*, *John Rosse*, *Henry Cummings*, *John Smith*, *Thomas Hicks*, *John Harding*, *Henry Wooding*, *Sarah Hawes*, *John West*, *John Frith*, *Thomas Hemsie*, *Elizabeth Mortimore*, *William Cauderwood*, *James Kendall*, *John Pricket*, *John Gabb*, *James Kirton*, *Bridget Dickson*, *Charles Rogers*, *Elizabeth Collins*, and *John Tysoe*. At the same Time four married Women, viz. *Sarah Willey*, *Mary Cokes*, *Esther Prune*, and *Sarah Martin*, were sentenced to *Bridewell* for eleven Months.

On the 19th, eight Persons from the *Peel*, and the like Number from the *Bull* and *Mouth*, were sent to *Newgate*.

On the 21st, about thirty Persons, taken at the *Peel* Meeting, were carried before the Justices; the principal Evidence was a Vintner in *Smithfield*, who had marked many of them on the Back with Red-Oker, as they came out of the Meeting-house, by which Mark he swore against them, though he knew not their Faces: He acted this with much Levity and Derision. Upon his Evidence the Justices sent twenty three of them to *Newgate*.

On the 22d, at the Sessions at the *Old-Bailey*, ten of the said People received Sentence of Transportation to *Jamaica*, namely, *Francis White*, *John Bates*, *Robert Thomas*, *John Gibson*, *George Pryor*, *Nicholas Bly*, *George Turkington*, *Anne Blow*, *Amy Walker*, and *Christopher Todd*. And at the same Sessions, *Dorothy Adderton*, a feme Covert, was sentenced to *Bridewell*.

In this Year died in *Newgate*, or by Sickness contracted there, twenty five Persons, namely, *John Clark*, *John Wilkinson*, *John Lewis*, *William Tomkins*, *John Hales*, *Robert Twynn*, *Henry Hasler*, *John Palmer*, *John Cooke*, *Edward Baker*, *Joseph Stonehouse*, *Mary Draper*, *Andrew Andrews*, *John Wildbore*, *Richard Twynn*, *Mary Davis*, *George Hide*, *Hannah Cooke*, *Mary Mile*, *Henry Woodward*, *Richard Audley*, *Mary Travers*, *Roger Evans*, *Hannah Drury*, and

Benjamin

Benjamin Greenwell. When the Relations of some of the Deceased desired their Bodies in order to bury them, it was not granted; but they were privately interr'd in the Ground belonging to the Goal, that their Deaths might be concealed as much as possible from the Observation of the People.

This Year concludes with the actual Transportation of three of the Prisoners, viz. *Edward Brush*, *Robert Hayes*, and *James Harding*, who on the 24th of the Month called *March*, very early in the Morning were hurried out of *Newgate*, by some of the Turnkeys to *Black-Friars*, and thence to *Gravesend*, where they were forced on Shipboard: *Robert Hayes*, being sickly and under a Course of Physick, died soon after he was put on board. The other two were carried to *Jamaica*, where it pleased God to prosper them, so that they lived there in good Circumstances, and *Edward Brush*, though a Grey-hair'd old Man when he went from *England*, lived to come back again.

Soon after this the Pestilence broke out in the City, which was thought by many to be a Punishment inflicted by the Hand of God on a persecuting Nation, and was plainly foretold by some of the People called *Quakers*, particularly by *George Bishop*, of *Bristol*, who several Months before had published the following Warning, viz.

"To the King, and both Houses of Parliament,

"Thus saith the Lord

"MEDDLE not with my People, because of their Conscience to me, and banish them not out of the Nation because of their Conscience: for if you do, I will send my Plagues upon you, and you shall know that I am the Lord.

"Written in Obedience to the Lord, by his Servant

Bristol, the 15th of the Ninth Month 1664.

GEO. BISHOP.

It was also taken Notice of by many, that the Sickness broke out first next Door to the House where *Edward Brush*, one of the banished Persons had dwelt, in *Bear-binder-lane*.

ANNO 1665. At a Sessions at *Hicks's-hall*, on the 4th and 6th Days of the Month called *April*, *John Francis Tryponet*, *Anne Haley*, *Margaret Walsby*, *Francis Marloe*, and *John Horsey*, were sentenced to Transportation; and on the 8th, at the *Old-Bailey*, seven others, viz. *Thomas Taylor*, *Thomas Davis*, *Edward Pattison*, *John Fitzgerrard*, *John Salmon*, *Hannah Camack*, and *Anne Standridge*, had the same Sentence pronounced against them.

On the 18th of the same Month, *Thomas Gibson*, *John Tyloe*, † *John Harding*, *John Terry*, *Edward Maletrat*, *John Goodwin*, and *Edward Boycote*, under Sentence of Transportation, were carried down to *Gravesend*, and put on Shipboard. A few Days after their Embarkation, *Judge Hide*, an active Man in sentencing many to Banishment, died suddenly, being in Health at *Westminster* in the Morning, and dead in his Closet the same Day at Noon.

On the 12th of the Month call'd *May*, *Robert Wilbam* was sentenced to Banishment at the Sessions in the *Old-Bailey*; and on the 26th, eight others of the Prisoners, viz. *Robert Allen*, *Thomas Kent*, *John Raunce*, *Thomas Hodge*, *Thomas Robins*, *John Johnson*, *Thomas Parker*, and *Richard Poulton*, were put into a Barge at *Black-Friars*, carried to *Gravesend*, and put on Shipboard.

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5 K

On

* *Tryponet* was a German, and no Subject of this Realm, and therefore was not legally convicted.

† He was the Father of *James Harding*, before mentioned to be transported to *Jamaica*.

LONDON.

1664.

Relations not suffered to bury them.

Three put on Shipboard.

Death of R. Hayes.

Pestilence broke out in London.

G. Bishop's Prediction.

An Observation.

5 At Hicks's-hall, and 7 at the Old-Bailey, sentenced to Transportation.

7 More put on Shipboard.

Death of Judge Hide.

R. Witham sentenced to Banishment.

8 Others put on Shipboard.

LONDON,

1665.

120 Yet re-
maining under
Sentence of
Transporta-
tion.

Masters of
Ships refuse
to carry them.

At length one
Fudge, an
hard-hearted
Man, contracts
to carry them.

55 Put on
Board his
Ship.

The Mariners
refuse to take
them in.

Returned to
Newgate.

Soldiers sent
to help to put
them on
Board.

Christian
Love.

The Soldiers
by Force put
them on Board.

On the 22d of the Month called June, at the Sessions in the Old-Bailly, Joseph Haugh, Richard Thomson, William Stevenson, and Mary Dale, were sentenced to Transportation, under which Sentence there yet remained in Newgate more than one Hundred and twenty Persons, whom the Sheriffs knew not how to get rid of; for the Masters of Ships, conscious of the Men's Innocence, generally refused to carry them, and the increasing Pestilence confirmed them in that Refusal, that Sickness being esteemed by them and many others as a Judgment on the Nation for its persecuting Laws. But at length they found a Man for their Purpose; his Name was Fudge, a Person so hardened as to say, That he would not stick to transport even his nearest Relations: With him the Sheriffs agreed to carry the Prisoners to Jamaica, and accordingly on the 20th of the Month called July, five and fifty of them were taken out of Newgate, put into a Barge at Black-Friars, and carried down the River to his Ship, called the Black-Spread-Eagle, lying in Bugby's Hole. When they came to the Ship's Side, the Master being absent, the Seamen refused to assist in forcing them on Board, and the Prisoners were not willing to be active in their own Transportation. The Turnkeys and Officers used high Words to the Seamen, insisting on the Prisoners being the King's Goods, and that they ought to be assistant in getting them on Board, but the Mariners were inflexible, and would not move a Finger in that Work. At length with much Difficulty they got only four of the Prisoners on Board, and being weary, returned with the Rest to Newgate, where they continued till the 4th of the Month called August, and then were again carried to the Barge. As they went down the River, Soldiers were sent in Boats from the Tower to assist in putting them on Board. Many of their Friends in other Boats accompanied them, though the Soldiers threatened to sink them, if they would not be gone: But Christian Love casteth out the Fear of Man. The Commander of the Soldiers called to the Seamen to assist him, but few of them would stir. Then the Soldiers in the Barge laid hold on the Prisoners, dragged some, kickt and puncht others, heaved up many by the Legs and Arms, and so tumbled them into the Ship, and in about an Hour's Time got them all on Board. They were thirty seven Men and eighteen Women, their Names being as follows, viz.

M E N.

Names of 37
Men.

* Peter Pennington, * Henry Taylor, * Edmund Berkley, * William Matthews, * Vincent Gerrard, * John Noble, * Nathaniel Harding, * Laurence Applin, * John Chaplin, * William Newman, * Christopher Dickeson, * John Fox, * Thomas Stokes, * Thomas Clark, * Bartholomew Hall, * Richard Thomson, * Edward Walker, * John Gabb, * John Horsey, * Matthew Jackson, * Edward Lee, * Arthur Baker, * Thomas Hubbard, * Roger Roberts, * Degory Marshall, * William Parker, * Thomas Rose, * Francis Tersey, * Thomas Cox, * Manasseh Howard, * John Claus, * Robert Pate, * Laurence Fullove, * James Pierce, * William Tillet, * James Kirton, and * William Roberts.

W O M E N.

Names of 18
Women.

* Deborah Harding, * Anne Horniblow, * Anne Priest, * Rose Atkins, * Elizabeth Ivers, * Elizabeth Fisher, * Anne Mercer, * Jane Powel, * Elizabeth Harding, * Rebecca Trump, * Mary Middleton, * Anne Rosley, * Rachel Jackson, * Dorothy Hall, * Christian Ford, * Patience Wilson, * Elizabeth Pike, and * Margaret Jackson.

The Ship re-
tarded.

27 Died on
Board.

The Vessel
taken by the
Dutch, and
the Prisoners
sent Home
again.

Being on Board, all the Men were thronged together between Decks, where they could not stand upright; and the Pestilence coming into the Ship, which was long retarded in the River, Fudge the Captain being arrested and imprisoned for Debt, so that it was about seven Months before she got to the Land's End, in which Time twenty seven of the Prisoners on Board died, whose Names are distinguished by Asterisks in the foregoing List. On the 23d of the Month called February, the Vessel sailed from Plymouth, and was next Day taken by a Dutch Privateer, and carried to Horn in North-Holland, from whence, when the Dutchmen perceived that they were not likely to be exchanged

exchanged as Prisoners of War, they sent them Home again with a Passport and Certificate.

We return to London, where, in the same Week the aforesaid fifty five Persons were put on Shipboard, the Bills of Mortality amounted to 3024, and in the next Week to 4030. As this destructive Pestilence was a sore and heavy Judgment on a wicked, profane, and persecuting Generation, who had long sported themselves with oppressing the Innocent, so was it a merciful Visitation to the faithful and conscientious Prisoners, in releasing many of them from a Life worse than Death in the nasty Holes of Newgate, where two and fifty of them died; namely,

Edmund Ward, Nicholas Bly, Richard Lambert, George Pryor, Thomas Wicks, Margaret Welsby, George Evans, John West, John Somersfield, Edward Bull, Thomas Kemsey, John Frisk, John Smith, John Crane, Matthias Gardener, John Salmon, Joshua Clare, Hugh Carter, George Taylor, John Tesdale, Thomas Davis, and Bathia Marloe, all which lay under Sentence of Banishment,

John Wiggins, Benjamin Laurence, Cathbert Heale, John Rotten, Hugh West, George Hollingsworth, Edward Harvey, James Williams, James Portsmouth, Francis White, John Cowdry, Joseph Haugh, Augustin Thorowgood, John Fitzgerrard, Richard Sparkman, James Sweet, John Bates, Mark Beecroft, Robert Thomas, Malachi Dudley, Martin Grasbe, John Howard, Daniel Reede, Daniel Hutokins, Ambrose Cooke, John Francis, Henry Wilkinson, Mary Powell, Christopher Nicholas, and Sarah Lee.

Some of these had been committed to Newgate in the Height of the Contagion, on the 9th of the Month called August, from the Peel Meeting, by Soldiers sent thither by Sir John Robinson, Lieutenant of the Tower, who came in an hostile Manner, and said, They were all their Prisoners: John Eldridge asking, By what Authority they came, was answered by a Blow on his Head with a Musket; and another for asking the same Question was knockt down. The Soldiers carried away thirty two of them to Newgate as Sheep for the Slaughter, there being no human Probability of their coming out alive.

In the same Month eighteen others were committed to the Gatehouse at Westminster by the following Warrants from the Duke of Albemarle, viz.

“WHEREAS the Persons hereafter named, to wit, William Watsons, Morgan Watkins, Hezekiah Carter, Francis Dove, Stephen White, Benjamin Griffiths, William Avelin, Andrew Carter, Samuel Stinson, and Richard Butcher, were Yesterday at an unlawful Meeting in St. John's, contrary to an Act of Parliament. These are to require you to receive the said Persons into the Prison of the Gatehouse, and to secure them till farther Order. And you are to certify to me the Names of such of them as have been before apprehended for unlawful Meetings, and committed to your Custody, and how often they have been in Prison. Given under my Hand this 9th Day of August 1665.

To the Keeper of the Gatehouse, or his Deputy.

“A Serjeant, and four Files.”

“YOU are on Sight hereof to take into your Custody Salomon Eccles, Robert Towerland, Thomas Portland, John Balsford, Humble Thatchder, William Crouck, John Pierce, and Christopher Cooke, who are guilty of being at an unlawful Meeting, and refusing to pay the Fines. Given under my Hand this 23d of August 1665.

To the Keeper of the Gatehouse, or his Deputy.

“The Officer of the Guards is to send a Serjeant and four Files with them.”

LONDON, 8th 1665.

Weekly Bill of Mortality 4030.

54 Of the Prisoners died in Newgate.

Some committed in the Height of the Contagion, viz. 32 To Newgate.

18 To the Gatehouse.

Duke of Albemarle's Warrants.

Meeting at Westminster

A Paper and others

LONDON,
&c.
1665.

4 Died of the
Contagion.

A new Act
against Con-
venticles en-
forced by Sir
S. Statling
Lord-Mayor.

G. Fox taken
preaching.

A Popish In-
former de-
scended and
glad to escape.

G. Fox dis-
miss'd.

J. Burnyeatt
fin'd.

Meeting at
Westminster
disturbed, and
many abus'd.

A. Parker
and others
fin'd.

Of the eighteen Persons committed by these Warrants, four, viz. William Avelyn, Stephen White, Samuel Stonson, and Robert Towerland, died of the Contagion in the Prison.

After this the Fury of Persecution in this City was restrained for some Years by the righteous Judgments of God, the devouring Pestilence, by which Multitudes of its Inhabitants were cut off in this Year, and in the next, the terrible Fire which laid waste the City it self: So that we have no farther Instances of Prosecutions of this People for their religious Meetings there, till

ANNO 1670. On the 10th of the Month called May this Year, a new Act against seditious Conventicles began to be in Force, which Sir Samuel Statling, then Lord-Mayor of London, immediately exerted his Authority to put in Execution, appointing a Guard of Watchmen with Halberts to stand the next Day at the Meeting-house in Whitehart-Court in Grace-church-street, and to suffer none to enter: Wherefore the Meeting was held in the Court.

On the 15th of the same Month, the First-day of the Week, the Guard appointed, kept them not only out of the Meeting-house, but also out of the Court in the open Street, where George Fox began to preach, but was presently pulled down: After him another was served in like Manner, and both of them were carried before the Lord-Mayor by a Constable and an Informer, with Soldiers attending them: As they were passing the Street, the Informer said, *It will never be a good World till all People come to the good old Religion that was two Hundred Years ago.* G. Fox hearing this, said, *What! a Papist Informer, for two Hundred Years ago, there was no other publick Profession of Religion in this Nation, but that of the Papists.* When they came into the Court before the Lord-Mayor's House, some of the People askt G. Fox, *Why he was brought thither?* He replied, *Ask that Informer, and ask him his Name.* Upon this one of the Mayor's Officers looking out at a Window, said, *He should tell his Name before he went away, for, said he, the Lord-Mayor will know by what Authority you intrude yourself with Soldiers into the Execution of those Laws which belong to the Civil Magistrate to execute, and not to the Military.* The Informer, unwilling to abide such an Examination, got out of the Court, into the Street, where the People received him with a loud Shout of *A Papist Informer, a Papist Informer,* and would probably have handled him roughly, had not G. Fox persuaded the Constable and Soldiers to keep him out of the Hands of the common People. So he went into an House, where he changed his Periwig, and made his Escape. The Informer being gone, and no Body appearing in that Quality, the Lord-Mayor, after some Discourse with George Fox and his Friend, let them both at Liberty.

On the same Day, at Devonshire-house, before the Meeting was fully gathered, Constables and Watchmen came, and kept some in the Street, among whom was Stephen Hubbersty, who began to speak, but was soon taken away. John Burnyeatt also, being in the House, began to speak, but was quickly pulled down, and had before the Mayor, who fin'd him 20 l.

On the same Day, William Simpson, preaching at Westminster Meeting, was pulled down by Soldiers, and after him, John Songhurst preaching, was used in like Manner. Several others were grievously abused. Some had their Clothes taken off their Backs, as Coats, Cloaks, Hoods, Scarves, &c. One of them was stript to his Shirt, and some of them were kept Prisoners several Hours; after which they were had before two Justices, who fin'd them, both Men and Women.

On the 18th, the City Marshal came to the Meeting in Grace-church-street, and pulled down Alexander Parker then preaching, and carried him, together with George Whitehead and John Boulton, who were sitting by him, before the Lord-Mayor, who fin'd Alexander 20 l. and the other two 5 s. each.

On the 22d, a File of Musquetiers and Pikemen rushed rudely into the Meeting at the same Place, and took away the Preacher, whom the Lord-Mayor fin'd 20 l.

On the 25th, the Officer of the Guards is to send a Sergeant and four

On the 20th, a Constable, with Watchmen and some Soldiers, took Samuel Thornton preaching there, who, being brought before the Lord-Mayor, was by him committed to Newgate.

On the same Day, at Devonshire-house, the Constables kept all out in the Street, where William Simpson preaching was taken away by Soldiers. John Burnyeatt also attempting to preach, met with like Usage. The Mayor sent them both to Newgate. In the Afternoon, at the same Place, they were again kept out by Constables and Halberdiers: This caused a great Concourfe of People, who stood quietly to hear, till a Company of Soldiers, with Drums beating, disturbed them; the Officers fell violently upon the Friends, beating them with Swords and Staves, and Sir Joseph Sheldon, their Colonel, struck John Fordham several Blows on the Head with a Stick: He also struck several others in a violent and furious Manner. This was the usual Treatment they met with, but they were supported through all in Christian Patience.

On the same Day, at Westminster, a Lieutenant with about thirty Soldiers violently dragged the Assembly out of their Meeting-house there.

On the 5th of the Month called June, Charles Harris preaching at Westminster Meeting, was pulled down, and, with several others, carried before Justice Newman, who fined them. The Meeting continuing, the Soldiers returned and took away some others, and by Force dispersed the Rest.

On the same Day, at Grace-church-street, George Whitehead praying was laid hold on by Soldiers, and haled out of the Meeting, as was also John Boulton, who exhorted the People to Sobriety. After six Hours Detention at the Exchange, they were conveyed to Guild-hall before Sir John Sheldon and others. The Soldiers who took them were called for Evidence; and George Whitehead exhorted them to take heed what they swore: He also cautioned the Magistrates to do nothing but what they would answer before the great God, who judgeth righteously: For, said he, we apprehend that we are taken contrary to Law, even to the present Act, viz. by Soldiers, where there was no Resistance made by any of us; we desire to be heard.

Sir Joseph Sheldon. If you be illegally convicted, you may make your Appeal.

G. W. I desire to be heard: But being several Times interrupted, he said, I require you in point of Justice to hear me, being a free-born Englishman. We would not have you who are our Judges, to prejudice your own Consciences by an illegal Conviction, nor to do any Thing, but as you will answer it to the great God; for we have a Tenderness to your Consciences.

Sir Joseph Sheldon. Well, we must answer for what we do; take you no Care for that.

The Witnesses being sworn: One of them said, that George Whitehead was preaching when they took him.

Sir Joseph Sheldon ordering the Witnesses to depart, George Whitehead said, I desire the Witnesses may stay till I have answered, they have already forsworn themselves, for I was not preaching or teaching when they took me.

A Stander-by, said, You were praying when they took you.

G. W. Take Notice: This Man has spoken Truth: But the Witness has forsworn himself in saying, I was preaching.

Nevertheless, the Clerk wrote down G. Whitehead as a Person convicted: But what Judgment was given, either against him or John Boulton, they did not hear. It was supposed that the gross Error of the Witnesses might prevent any farther Proceedings against them.

On the 12th of the same Month, the Assembly at Grace-church-street was held in the Court, the Doors of the Meeting-house having been nail'd up, and a Padlock put upon them the Day before by the Surveyor-General, and one of the Sheriffs, by an Order from the King and Council. A Constable and some Soldiers came, but the Concourfe of People was so great that they could not press through them. At length, as the Meeting was breaking up,

LONDON,
&c.
1670.

S. Thornton
sent to New-
gate.
Also W.
Simpson and
J. Burnyeatt.

J. Fordham
and others
beaten.

G. White-
head and
J. Boulton
taken.

Their Exami-
nation.

Meeting held
in the Court
at Grace-
Church-
Street.

LONDON, the Sheriff came, made a Proclamation, and carried four of them to the Counter.

1670.

8 Sent to New-Prison.

On the same Day at the Peel, they were kept out by Soldiers, who took Rebecca Travers preaching in the Street, and carried her with John Gold, John Barker, Thomas Jones, John Ship, Joseph Scott, and two others to their Guard, and from thence to New-Prison. After three Hours they were had before the Justices, who fined them 5 s. each, and discharged them.

And on the same Day at Westminster, George Whitehead preaching was pulled down by Force, and carried before Justice Newman, and the Meeting broke up by Violence.

Several committed to Bishop's-gate Goal, a nasty Place.

On the 19th, at Grace-church-street, being kept out of their Meeting-house, and met in the Court, the two Sheriffs came with Soldiers, and took away Francis Moore, Richard Mayfield, Richard Mew, Richard Knowlman, and Gilbert Hutton, whom they committed to the Custody of one Whiting, Beadle of the Bridge-ward, and his Watchmen, who, by the Sheriff's Order, carried them to Bishop's-gate Goal, a filthy Place, where they were kept all Night, and then had before the Lieutenant at Guild-hall, who sent them to the Counter till the Day following, when they were sent to Newgate by the following Warrant of the Lord-Mayor, viz.

“ London is.

Their Commitment to Newgate.

“ RECEIVE into your Custody the Bodies of Francis Moore, Richard Mew, Richard Mayfield, Richard Knowlman, and Gilbert Hutton, herewith sent you, being apprehended and brought before me, and charged to have made, and to have been present the last Lord's Day, at an unlawful Assembly, Riot and Rout in White-bart-yard in Grace-church-street, London, and for want of Sureties for their good Behaviour and personal Appearance at the next Sessions of Goal-Delivery for the said City and Liberties: And them safely keep in your Custody until they shall be thence legally discharged, and this shall be your Warrant.

To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal of Newgate.

“ Dated the 21st Day of June 1670.”

Cruelty of the Soldiers, animated by some known Papists.

On the said 19th Day of the Month called June, at Westminster, they were kept out of the Meeting-house by Soldiers, and obliged to meet in the Street. Two Justices came, and ordered the Soldiers to disperse them; in order to which they laid on with their Muskets, and struck one of the Friends so violently that he thought his Ribs had been broken. Several known Papists were there animating the Soldiers, one of whom standing behind a Soldier who was lifting up his Musket to strike at a Friend, received such a Blow as made his Mouth bleed, whereby a reasonable Check was given to his malicious Purpose.

W. Simpson fined.

On the same Day, at Ratcliff, William Simpson preaching in the Street, was taken and carried to Justice Rycroft, who fined him 20 l.

A Priest preaching at Grace-Church-street Meeting-house.

On the 26th, at the Meeting-house in Grace-church-street, the Lord-Mayor and others had ordered a Priest to attend, who read the Common-Prayer, and preached a Sermon in the Gallery; exhorting to the Exercise of Christian Love and Charity; but his Conduct was not correspondent to his Discourse, for when the Soldiers, who guarded him, abused several of the Friends in his Presence, he did not reprove them, nor shew any Dislike. The Novelty of the Thing drew many People thither; and after the Priest had done, George Whitehead stood up and preached the Gospel of Peace and Love, shewing how contrary thereto all Persecution for Religion was: The People heard him with Quietness and Attention, till two rude Fellows, with Soldiers following them, violently pulled him down, and carried him to the Lord-Mayor's, and kept him a while in the Yard. His Name, and the Information against him being given in to the

G. Whitehead carried to the Lord-Mayor.

the Mayor, he quickly sent out a Warrant to commit him to the Counter, which was then in the Gate-house at *Bishop's-gate*, for making a Disturbance, until he should find Sureties, or be delivered by Law. This was done without calling in or hearing *G. Whitehead* in his own Defence. But he getting a Sight of the Warrant, desired he might speak to the Mayory, which being granted, he told him, there was a Mistake in the Warrant, for that he had not made any Disturbance, but on the contrary quieted the People by seasonable Advice and Counsel. To which the Mayor said, *He would enquire farther into it after Evening-Prayer*, but in the mean Time ordered him to the Counter: In the Evening, the Mayor sent for him again, and heard the Evidence against him, viz. the Constable and another Person, who witnessed, *That he stood up and preached, after their Minister had ended, but what he preached they could not tell.* The Mayor said, *If the Minister had done, it was a Conventicle, and I must fine you 20 l.* and afterward he said 40 l.

G. W. said, If I had preached Sedition or Discord, either against the Government or the Peace of the Nation, I might justly suffer by this Law, being intituled, *An Act to prevent and suppress seditious Conventicles*, but seeing the Witnesses cannot tell what I did preach, I may signify the Substance and Tendency thereof, viz. *A Necessity being laid upon me, Who had been unto me if I had not preached the Gospel*, and it was no other but the Gospel of Peace and Salvation by Jesus Christ that I preached, to exalt the Power of Godliness, directing People thereunto in Christ, that they might not remain under empty, or lifeless and dead Forms of Profession, &c.

The Mayor said, *Well, I must fine you 40 l. this being the second Offence, you were convicted before Sir Joseph Sheldon once before.*

G. W. Must I suffer for preaching the Gospel of Peace, as if I had preached Sedition? This is strange: Doth the Law make no Difference? Besides, I was not convicted according to this Law or Act before Justice Sheldon, for it was there made appear that the Witness forswore himself against me, as some there that stood by testified, for he swore, that he took me preaching, when many could testify, as some there did affirm, that I was praying, and not at that Time preaching.

Mayor. *But was you not on your Knees, with your Hat off, when they took you?*

G. W. Yea, I was: And the Meeting was in a reverent Posture of Prayer, the Men with their Hats off, and the Soldiers pulled me down when I was praying.

Mayor. *However you were in a religious Exercise.*

G. W. If Prayer to God must be accounted a religious Exercise not allowed by the Liturgy; yet I do not understand that praying is included in that Clause that mentions Preaching or Teaching, &c. As where it is said, *That every Person who shall take upon him to preach or teach in any such Meeting, Assembly, or Conventicle, and shall thereof be convicted as aforesaid, shall forfeit for every such first Offence the Sum of twenty Pounds.* Now here is no Prayer mentioned, therefore I desire thy Judgment, whether by preaching or teaching can be meant praying?

Mayor. *No. Praying is not there mentioned. However your Conviction is recorded: You may make your Appeal.*

G. W. To whom shall I make my Appeal, but to those that wronged me?

Mayor. *I must do according to Law, I must fine you forty Pounds.*

G. W. Then I must be fined for preaching the Gospel of Peace, as if I had preached Sedition: By this it is all a Case, to preach Sedition, or the Gospel of Peace. But such a Law as makes no Difference between preaching Sedition, and preaching the Gospel of Peace, I must deny as being both against Reason, and against God: And God, who judgeth righteously, and by whom Actions are weighed, will judge between thee and us in this Thing.

Concerning the Fine at this Time imposed, the said *G. Whitehead*, in his Book called his *Christian Progress*, says, "I do not remember that the Fine
" threatened

LONDON,

1670.

Committed to
the Counter.W. Bayly
preaching
his Exam-
nation.Duke's
Wellington
by driving
CottonA Bridge off
the River
Gravel
Church
street West
High-waysMeeting in
the Street
HighwayI. Type
Black
the end
the end
the end
the end

Fined 40 l.

LONDON,
8c.

1670.

A Priest's
Courage fail-
ing.

W. Bayley
preaching is
sent to New-
gate.

Dangers at
Westminster
by driving
Coaches.

A Priest offi-
ciates in
Grace-
church-
street Meet-
ing-house.

Meeting in
the Street
disturbed by
Drums.

J. Tyfoe
abused.

He and about
100 others
sent to New-
Prison.

Abuses by the
Keeper.

Distress on
E. Brooks.

Fury conquer'd
by Patience.

At Grace-
church-
street.

"threatned upon this pretended Conviction was ever levied upon my Goods;
"though diverse others were to great Excess."

On the 3d of the Month called July, in the Time of the Meeting at Grace-
church-street, a Priest, guarded by Soldiers, came out of an adjacent Alehouse,
but as they came toward the Meeting-house, the Priest flunk away into the
Street; the Serjeant followed him, and perswaded him to come back again,
which he did, with a double Guard, to the Door; but then his Heart again
failed him, and he turned away, with the Derision of the People. William Bayley
was then preaching, whom the Soldiers took and carried before the Lord-Mayor,
who committed him to Newgate for abusing the Priest, and disturbing him in
his Office, though he had said nothing to the Priest, for he withdrew as afore-
said. When W. Bayley came before the Mayor with his Hat on, the Mayor
pluckt it off, saying, *You give no Honour to Governours.* William asked, *Dost
thy Honour consist in taking off the Hat?* The Mayor answered *Yes*, and passion-
ately trod the Hat under his Feet. William replied, *Then thou treadest thy
Honour under Foot.*

On the 10th of the same Month, at Westminster, a new Method was put
in practice, to disperse the Meeting in the Street. One of the Justice's
Coachmen drove his Coach and Horses to and fro among the Friends; by
which several were in much Danger. Another Coachman, practising the like,
crusht the Leg of a Woman with Child between the Coach-Wheel and a Post,
so that she received much Hurt.

On the same Day, at Grace-church-street, a Company of Soldiers came
about four in the Morning, and as soon as the Gates were open, drew out a
Party into the Court; and after some Time the City-Marshal came with a
Priest and others; they knockt at an House next the Meeting, and the Door
being opened, rushed in, and broke open a Door, and forced their Way into
the Meeting-house. Being asked, *By what Authority they did so?* The Marshal
answered, that *He had a verbal Order.* After this the Priest read Prayers and
preached, and the Friends were kept out by a Guard at each Door. Howbeit
they maintained their Testimony by meeting in the Street, where if any began
to speak by way of Exhortation, the Drums were beaten to drown his Voice,
and he was quickly haled away.

On the same Day also, at the Peel, the Meeting being near ended, and
John Tyfoe at Prayer, a Party of the King's Life-Guards came, and their
Commander took John by the Collar, and drew him into the Street, where
he, exhorting the Soldiers and People to fear God, was much abused. The
Soldiers carried him and about an Hundred others to New-Prison, where they
were detained without any *Mittimus* till Evening, when the Women were
turned out, but the Men kept till next Morning, and then being had before the
Justices were fined 5s. each. In the Time of their Confinement, as they sat
silently and religiously together, John Tyfoe prayed, upon which the Keeper
pluckt him violently from amongst them, and put him into a nasty dark
stinking Hole, where he was kept four Days. One Robert Bridges, a Coach-
maker in Hosier-lane, who came to see the Prisoners, reproved the Keeper for
using John Tyfoe after that Manner, and asked, *How he could answer the detain-
ing him without any Mittimus?* Upon which the Keeper swore the Peace against
him, and procured a Warrant, by which he also was committed to Prison.

On the 15th, Edward Brooks, a Grocer, of Giles's in the Fields, had his Shop-
Goods taken away to the Value of 7l. for Fines imposed on himself and others
for Meeting at Westminster, where the Soldiers continued to keep Friends out
of their Meeting-house, but they met constantly at their usual Times in the
Street, and by their Christian Patience gradually overcame the Fury of their
Opposers.

On the 17th, at Grace-church-street, a Company of Trained-Bands having
kept Guard in the Street all Night, one of them in the Morning climbed over
the Gate, and through a Window got into the Meeting-house, broke off the
Lock from the Door, and so made Way for a Priest, and a Rabble attending
him,

him, for few Persons of Credit appeared to countenance their Proceedings: The Priest performed his Office as usual: And a Friend praying in the Street, the Drums were beat to prevent his being heard.

On the same Day, at the *Peel*, they were kept out by Red-coat Soldiers and a Constable, and when two Women spake a few Words, the Soldiers violently pulled them away; others pusht down both Men and Women with their Muskets, and tore *Mary Wick's* Scarf and Apron, and pincht her, and bruised some with their Muskets; whereupon one of the Friends called to the Constable to keep the Peace. Toward the Conclusion of the Meeting, *George Whitehead* was moved in much Brokenness and Tenderness of Spirit to call upon the Lord by Prayer: Soon after he began, the Soldiers with Violence pulled him away into the Entry; *George Whitehead* then told them of their Wickedness and Incivility toward the Women, and how much below the manly Spirit of Soldiers they acted in abusing peaceable Men and Women as they had done. Presently after, they pulled *John Scott* and *Samuel Richardson* into their Centry or Guard-Room, and detained those three in their Custody near three Hours; and then a great Company of Soldiers conducted them to an Alehouse near *Clerkenwell*, where two Justices, *Foster* and *Bowles*, were, with a great many of the King's Horse-guards before the Door. As *George Whitehead* and his Friends were brought to the Door, he called out for Justice, saying, *I am glad we are come before the Civil Magistrate: We desire Justice of you against the Soldiers, who have kept us out of our Meeting in the Street, and taken us contrary to Law, even contrary to the present Act of Parliament, which requires not them to meddle with Meetings, but where Resistance is made, and upon Certificate thereof, as the Act mentions: Besides some of these Soldiers behaved themselves rudely, and abused several of our Friends, and punched some of the Women with their Muskets and hurt them. In the next Place, we except against these Soldiers being Witnesses, looking upon them as not fit, nor ought they to be accepted as Witnesses against us, having broken the Law themselves.*

G. Whitehead several Times called for Justice, as they would answer to the great God of Heaven and Earth, who would judge righteously between them. The Justice said, *You shall have Justice.* Whereupon a Major on Horseback said to the Justices, *Sirs, he will preach till Night, if you will bear him.* The Justices bowed with their Hats off to the Major, shewing him much Reverence, and discovering a great Readiness to convict the Prisoners. The Major, Captain, and others, alighted, and came in to see the Justices proceed against the Prisoners; and many of the *Red-coats* were called in for Witnesses, but *G. W.* repeated his Exceptions against them as before. Howbeit, contrary both to Law and Equity, they were sworn to witness against the Prisoners whom they had abused and illegally apprehended; the Justices not at all cautioning them to take heed what they swore, but the Major did. The Substance of their Depositions was, *That there were about three Hundred met in the Street, and that they took George Whitehead preaching, standing upon a Bulk or Stall.*

G. W. That is not true; I was praying, standing on the Ground, but leaning on a Bulk.

Soldier. *We took him praying, but leaning on a Bulk.*

G. W. See how confused and contradictory they are in their Evidence, for preaching and praying are two Things, neither is praying mentioned in that Clause of the Act that is made against such as take upon them to preach or teach.

Justice Foster. *You conjur'd them together to the Meeting.*

G. W. That is not true; for they were gathered together before I came to the Meeting.

Major. *He doth as much as tell the Justice he lies.*

G. W. I do not tell him he lies; but I say again, *It is false that I conjured the People together.*

The Major reproved the Soldiers for acting beyond his Order, in going into the Street to take the Friends, saying, *I gave you Order only to keep them out in the Street, and you to keep Centry at the Door.*

LONDON,
1670.
&c.

At the Peel.

Examination
of G. White-
head and
others by the
Justices.

Continued to
New Prison.

LONDON,

1670.

1670.

Justice Bowles. Sir, but after you were gone, I ordered them to take those that preached, and I thank them.

Justice Foster. What a Devil did you come there to pray for?

G. W. Do those Words become a Magistrate? We did not meet to hear or sing Ballads in the Street, nor do we meet at Play-houses, nor at Bawdy-houses, nor Whore-houses, nor at Drinking-houses, to be drunk, where the Devil is served: But we meet singly to worship and serve the Living God, for which we suffer.

The Major, and some others with him, seemed highly displeased at the Words about going to Bawdy-houses, calling out, *Who do you accuse? Who do you accuse for going to Bawdy-houses?* Whereupon some of the Company present smiled upon one another.

G. W. I accuse none, but tell you what Meetings we do not come at, nor own, and for what End we do not meet.

Major. They were wont to call Rome the Whore, and said she should be destroyed in 1666, but, I trow, it came upon London, for London was then burnt, and not Rome. This he spake somewhat vauntingly, or with a Sort of Pleasure.

G. W. Is not Rome a Whore then?

Major. No, not the Place, but there are Whores there.

And in other Places, said another, which was but an Evasion.

The Information the Soldiers gave against John Scott was, that they took him preaching, which was because when they came furiously, he advised them to be moderate. This they termed preaching.

Their Information against Samuel Richardson was, that he laid violent Hands on one of their Muskets; but this was utterly false, and denied by him, for he was standing peaceably, as he said, with his Hands in his Pockets.

Then the Justices seemed inclinable to convict them on the Act against Conventicles: G. W. had a few Words with them about it, pleading to prevent their Severity. But Justice Foster urging to have them convicted, two Warrants were made, and the three Prisoners were carried to New-Prison by the Constable and Soldiers: The Troopers all the Time of their Examination standing before the Door.

Committed to
New-Prison.

It was observable, that in their *Mittimus*, they mist putting down George Whitehead's Name, and instead thereof set down Arthur Cotton, who was a Soldier that helped to take them.

The next Day after their Commitment, about six in the Evening, the afore-said two Justices came to the Prison, and called George Whitehead into a Room, and asked him his Name and Place of Abode, which he told them: And then they said, *They had several Laws which they could proceed by against him, and particularly the Oxford Act, the Oath, &c.* The Clerk having the Oath of Allegiance in his Hand with Blanks left for the Names, and a Law-Book lay before them.

G. W. I desire you would not go about to ensnare us, for the Law was not made to make Men Transgressors, but to punish them, where it finds such. We are apprehended and accused as Breakers of the late Act against Conventicles, let us first be tried upon that Act and cleared, and not have new Snares laid for us.

Justice Foster. We will not lay Snares for you: If you will pay your 20l. you shall be discharged.

G. W. answered something about the said Act; but they caused him to withdraw, and called in John Scott, who had a long Discourse with them, they accusing him for having been an old Soldier, and tendred him the Oath according to the Oxford Act made against Non-Conformist Ministers, &c. which he refusing to take, they threatened to detain him in Prison six Months. After which they again called George Whitehead, and Samuel Richardson, and asked G. Whitehead, *Whether he would pay his 20l. Fine, and if he would promise to come no more to the Meeting at the Peel?*

G. W.

G. W. answered, I cannot pay any Fine or Money for praying to God, or worshipping him; neither can I promise any such Thing, as to forbear coming to worship or pray to God.

LONDON,
&c.
1670.

One of them asked S. Richardson, Will you promise to come no more at Meeting?

S. R. I can promise no such Thing.

Justice. Will you pay your 5s.?

Richardson. I do not know that I owe thee 5s.

So having fined G. Whitehead 20l. and S. Richardson 5s. they discharged them; but ordered John Scott to be detained by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

G. Whitehead and J. Richardson fined 20l.

“ *Middlesex* Is.

“ **W**HEREAS it hath been proved before us, two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for this County, by the Oaths of James Howard, Soldier to Capt. Winter, and John Hayle, Soldier to the said Captain: That John Scott, lodging at the Pewter Platter in St. John's Street, in the Parish of St. Sepulchers, in the County of Middlesex, did take upon him to preach in an unlawful Assembly or Meeting, under Colour and Pretence of exercising Religion, contrary to the Laws and Statutes of this Realm: And that the said John Scott did, in Manner aforesaid, preach or speak upon Sunday the 17th of this Instant July 1670, in the Parish of Sepulchers, contrary to an Act of Parliament made in the 17th Year of his Majesty's Reign that now is; And whereas we have, upon the Day of the Date hereof, caused the said John Scott to be brought before us at the Parish of St. James's, Clerkenwell, in the County of Middlesex aforesaid, and demanded of him then and there, whether he had taken and subscribed, in Manner as by the said Act is directed, the Oath thereby appointed; and he the said John Scott answered thereto that he had not: And we having then and there tendred the said Oath to be by him taken and subscribed, he the said John Scott refused to take the said Oath, and subscribe the said Declaration, as by the said Act is required. We therefore send you herewithal the Body of the said John Scott, requiring you, in his Majesty's Name, him safely to keep in your Prison for the Space of six Months, or until he shall be thence discharged by due Course of Law. And hereof you are not to fail. Given under our Hands and Seals this present 17th Day of July 1670, Anno regni Regis nunc, &c. 22°.

J. Scott's *Mittimus* to New-Prison.

To the Keeper of New-Prison,
or his Deputy there.

“ REGINALD FOSTER,
“ WILLIAM BOWLES.”

Thus was John Scott imprisoned six Months under Colour of an Act, which indeed had no Relation to his Case, for he was no Preacher, but the Soldiers called his *Advising them to Sobriety* by the Name of preaching.

On the 24th, at Grace-church-street, the City-Marshal came early in the Morning, and broke open the Window of the Meeting-house. The Soldiers guarded the Priest to read Common-Prayer, and kept Friends in the Street, beating a Drum when any attempted to speak.

Kept out of the Meeting.

On the 31st, at the same Place, the Marshal broke open the Window with an Iron Sledge, furiously striking on the Heads of such as stood in his Way, and kept Friends out of their Meeting as before.

It happened also in this Month, that Theophilus Green, preaching in a Meeting at Uxbridge, was taken by Officers, who detained him till a Justice of the Peace came. He fined him 20l. for preaching, and, under Pretence that he had uttered seditious Words in his Sermon, sent him to Newgate. The Words charged upon him in the *Mittimus* were, *Keep your Meetings in the Name of Jesus, notwithstanding the Laws of Men to the Contrary*. For this and other

Commitment of T. Green to Newgate.

Fines

LONDON, Fines for Meeting, Warrants of Distress were issued against the said *Theophilus* for 100*l.* for which they took away all his Household Goods.

1670.

His Goods seized.

At Ratcliff.

At the Peel 24 sent to Prison.

Commitment of W. Penn and W. Mead to Newgate.

80 Kept all Night, and some of them fined.

60 Committed.

About 50 committed, and fined.

Oath tendered to 3 of them.

Contest betwixt Power and Liberty.

Trial of W. Penn, and W. Mead, at the Old-Bailey.

On the 12th of the Month called *August*, some Officers of the *Tower Liberty*, with Soldiers, came to the Meeting-house at *Ratcliff*, and took away sixty one Forms and two Tables. They sold one of the Tables for 6*d.* and carried the Rest to the *Tower*. And on the 14th, Justice *Rycroft*, with a Constable and Soldiers, took the Names of the Persons present, and fined them. On the same Day, about twenty four Persons were carried from the *Peel Meeting* to Prison, and detained till two Justices came and took their Names.

Also on the 14th, at *Grace-church-street*, *William Penn* was taken preaching, and together with *William Mead*, present at the same Meeting, committed to *Newgate*.

On the 21st, about eighty Persons were carried from the *Peel Meeting* to *New-Prison*, and kept all Night in a nasty stinking Hole. Next Day, in the Afternoon, two Justices, *Foster* and *Sabbs*, came and took their Names, fining them as they pleased, and discharged them all, except one, who asked for his Accusers, as thinking the Conviction irregular; the Justices took Offence thereat, and ordered him to be detained until Sessions.

On the 25th, from the same Place, about sixty Men and Women were committed, and detained all Night, among whom were *John Matthews*, *Ellen Dundas*, *Alexander Hobbs*, and *Robert White*; and on the 28th, about fifty were committed to *New-Prison*, and detained all Night, and next Day fined by the Justices. On the same Day, three Justices came to the Meeting at *Ratcliff*, and took the Friends Names, and fined them: They also tendered the Oath of Allegiance to *John Graham*, *Francis Barnes*, and *William Jarvil*, and upon their Refusal to take it, sent them to *New-Prison*.

In the Beginning of *September*, this Year, was a remarkable Struggle between the Efforts of arbitrary Power in the Magistrates of this City, and the just and ancient Liberties of the People of *England*, notably defended in the following Trial, viz.

The Trial of WILLIAM PENN, and WILLIAM MEAD, at the Sessions-house in the Old-Bailey, London, the 1st, 3d, 4th, and 5th of September 1670.

Present on the BENCH as Justices.

Justice's Names.

SAMUEL STARLING Mayor,
JOHN HOWEL Recorder,
THOMAS BLUDWORTH Alderman,
WILLIAM PEAK Alderman,
RICHARD FORD Alderman,

JOSEPH SHELDON Alderman,
JOHN ROBINSON Alderman,
RICHARD BROWN Alderman,
JOHN SMITH } Sheriffs.
JAMES EDWARDS }

The Jurors impanelled and sworn, being Citizens of London, were,

Juror's Names.

Thomas Veer,
Charles Milson,
William Plumsted,
Henry Mitchel,

Edward Busbel,
Gregory Walklett,
Henry Henly,
William Lever,

John Hammond,
John Brightman,
James Damask,
John Bailly.

The FORM of the OATH.

Oath.

You shall well and truly try, and true Deliverance make between our Sovereign Lord the King, and the Prisoners at the Bar, according to your Evidence. So help you God.

The INDICTMENT.

Indictment.

That *William Penn*, Gent. and *William Mead*, late of *London*, Linen-draper, with diverse other Persons to the Jurors unknown, to the Number of three Hundred,

Hundred, on the 14th Day of *August*, in the 22d Year of the King, about eleven of the Clock in the Forenoon of the same Day, with Force and Arms in the Parish of *St. Bennet-Grace-church*, in *Bridge-Ward*, *London*, in the Street called *Grace-church-street*, unlawfully and tumultuously did assemble and congregate themselves together to the Disturbance of the Peace of the said Lord the King: And the aforesaid *William Penn* and *William Mead*, together with other Persons to the Jurors aforesaid unknown, then and there so assembled and congregated together, the aforesaid *William Penn*, by Agreement between him and *William Mead* before made, and by Abetment of the aforesaid *William Mead*, then and there in the open Street did take upon himself to preach and speak, and then and there did preach and speak unto the aforesaid *William Mead*, and other Persons there in the Street aforesaid being assembled and congregated together, by Reason whereof a great Concourse and Tumult of People in the Street aforesaid, then and there a long Time did remain and continue, in Contempt of the said Lord the King, and of his Law, to the great Disturbance of his Peace, to the great Terror and Disturbance of many of his Liege People and Subjects, to the ill Example of all others in the like Case offending, and against the Peace of the said Lord the King, his Crown and Dignity.

LONDON,
&c.
1670.

The Trial.

Clerk. *WHAT say you, William Penn and William Mead, are you Guilty as you stand indicted in Manner and Form as aforesaid, or Not guilty?*

Penn. It is impossible that we should be able to remember the Indictment *verbatim*, and therefore we desire a Copy of it, as is customary on the like Occasions.

Recorder. *You must first plead to the Indictment, before you can have a Copy of it.*

Penn. I am unacquainted with the Formality of the Law, and therefore, before I shall answer directly, I request two Things of the Court. *First*, that no Advantage may be taken against me, nor I deprived of any Benefit which I might otherwise have received. *Secondly*, that you will promise me a fair Hearing, and Liberty of making my Defence.

Court. *No Advantage shall be taken against you: You shall have Liberty: You shall be heard.*

Penn. Then I plead *Not guilty* in Manner and Form.

Clerk. *What sayst thou, William Mead, art thou Guilty in Manner and Form as thou standest indicted, or Not guilty?*

Mead. I shall desire the same Liberty as is promised to *William Penn*.

Court. *You shall have it.*

Mead. Then I plead *Not guilty* in Manner and Form.

The Court adjourned till the Afternoon.

Crier. *O Yes, &c.*

Clerk. *Bring William Penn and William Mead to the Bar.*

Note. The said Prisoners were brought, but set aside, and other Business prosecuted: Where it is observable, that the Court made them wait on the Trials of Felons and Murderers, designing, in all Probability, both to affront and tire them.

After five Hours Attendance, the Court broke up, and adjourned to the 3d Instant.

The 3d of September 1670, the Court sat.

Crier. *O Yes, &c.*

Clerk. *Bring William Penn and William Mead to the Bar.*

Mayor. *Sirrah, who bid you put off their Hats? Put on their Hats again.*

Observ. Whereupon one of the Officers putting the Prisoners Hats upon their Heads (pursuant to the Order of the Court) brought them to the Bar.

Recorder. *Do you know where you are?*

Penn. Yes.

Recorder. *Do you know it is the King's Court?*

Penn. I know it to be a Court; and I suppose it to be the King's Court.

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Recorder. *Do you not know there is Respect due to the Court?*

Penn. Yes.

Recorder. *Why do you not pay it then?*

Penn. I do so.

Recorder. *Why do you not put off your Hat then?*

Penn. Because I do not believe that to be any Respect.

Recorder. *Well, the Court sets forty Marks a piece upon your Heads, as a Fine, for your Contempt of the Court.*

Penn. I desire it might be observed, that we came into the Court with our Hats off, (that is, taken off) and if they have been put on since, it was by Order from the Bench, and therefore not we, but the Bench, should be fined.

Mead. I have a Question to ask the Recorder; *Am I fined also?*

Recorder. Yes.

Mead. I desire the Jury and all People to take Notice of the Injustice of the Recorder, who spake not to me to pull off my Hat, and yet hath put a Fine upon my Head. O fear the Lord, and dread his Power, and yield to the Guidance of his holy Spirit, for he is not far from every one of you.

The Jury sworn again.

Note. J. Robinson, Lieutenant of the Tower, disingenuously objected against Edward Busbel, as if he had not kist the Book; though indeed it was on purpose to have made Use of his Tenderness of Conscience in avoiding reiterated Oaths, to have put him by his being a Jurymen, apprehending him to be a Person not fit to answer their arbitrary Ends.

The Clerk read the Indictment as aforesaid.

Clerk. *Call James Cook into the Court. Give him his Oath.*

Crier. James Cook, lay your Hand upon the Book. *The Evidence you shall give to the Court, betwixt our Sovereign Lord the King, and the Prisoners at the Bar, shall be the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth. So help you God.*

Cook. I was sent for from the Exchange to go and disperse a Meeting in Gracious-Street, where I saw Mr. Penn speaking to the People, but I could not hear what he said, because of the Noise. I endeavoured to make Way to take him, but could not get to him for the Croud of People; upon which Captain Mead came to me, about the Kennel of the Street, and desired me to let him go on, for when he had done, he would bring Mr. Penn to me.

Court. *What Number do you think might be there?*

Cook. About three or four Hundred People.

Court. *Call Richard Read. Give him his Oath.*

Read being sworn, was askt, *What do you know concerning the Prisoners at the Bar?*

Read. My Lord, I went to Gracious-street, where I found a great Croud of People, and I heard Mr. Penn preach to them, and I saw Captain Mead speak to Lieutenant Cook, but what he said, I could not tell.

Mead. What did W. Penn say?

Read. There was such a great Noise that I could not tell what he said.

Mead. Jury, observe this Evidence, he saith, he heard him preach, and yet doth not know what he said. Jury, take Notice, he swears now a clean contrary Thing to what he swore before the Mayor when we were committed, for now he swears that he saw me in Gracious-street, and yet swore before the Mayor, when I was committed, that he did not see me there. I appeal to the Mayor himself, if this be not true. But no Answer was given.

Court. *What Number do you think might be there?*

Read. About four or five Hundred.

Penn. I desire to know of him what Day it was?

Read. The 14th Day of August.

Penn. Did he speak to me, or let me know he was there, for I am very sure I never saw him.

Clerk.

Clerk. Crier, call — into the Court.

— My Lord, I saw a great Number of People, and Mr. Penn, I suppose was speaking. I saw him make a Motion with his Hands, and heard some Noise, but could not understand what he said; but for Captain Mead, I did not see him there.

Recorder. What say you Mr. Mead, were you there?

Mead. It is a Maxim in your own Law, *Nemo tenetur accusare seipsum*, which if it be not true Latin, I am sure it is true English, That no Man is bound to accuse himself. And why dost thou offer to ensnare me with such a Question? Doth not this shew thy Malice? Is this like unto a Judge that ought to be Council for the Prisoner at the Bar?

Recorder. Sir, hold your Tongue; I did not go about to ensnare you.

Penn. I desire we may come more close to the Point, and that Silence may be commanded in the Court.

Crier. O Yes! All Manner of Persons, keep Silence upon Pain of Imprisonment. Silence in the Court.

Penn. We confess our selves to be so far from recanting, or declining to vindicate the assembling our selves, to preach, pray, or worship the eternal, holy, just God, that we declare to all the World, that we believe it to be our indispensable Duty to meet incessantly upon so good an Account, nor shall all the Powers upon Earth be able to divert us from reverencing and adoring our God who made us.

Brown. You are not here for worshipping God, but for breaking the Law: You do your selves a great deal of Wrong in going on in that Discourse.

Penn. I affirm I have broken no Law, nor am guilty of the Indictment that is laid to my Charge, and to the End the Bench, the Jury, and my self, with those that hear us, may have a more direct Understanding of this Procedure, I desire you would let me know, by what Law it is you prosecute me, and upon what Law you ground my Indictment.

Recorder. Upon the common Law.

Penn. Where is that common Law?

Recorder. You must not think that I am able to run up so many Years, and over so many adjudged Cases, which we call Common Law, to answer your Curiosity.

Penn. This Answer, I am sure, is very short of my Question, for if it be common, it should not be so hard to produce.

Recorder. Sir, will you plead to your Indictment?

Penn. Shall I plead to an Indictment that hath no Foundation in Law? If it contain the Law you say I have broken, why should you decline to produce that Law, since it will be impossible for the Jury to determine, or to agree to bring in their Verdict, who have not the Law produced by which they should measure the Truth of this Indictment, and the Guilt, or Contrary, of my Fact.

Recorder. You are a saucy Fellow: Speak to the Indictment.

Penn. I say it is my Place to speak to Matter of Law: I am arraigned a Prisoner: My Liberty which is next to Life it self, is now concerned: You are many Mouths and Ears against me, and if I must not be allowed to make the best of my Case, it is hard: I say again, unless you shew me and the People the Law you ground your Indictment upon, I shall take it for granted your Proceedings are merely arbitrary.

Recorder. The Question is, whether you are guilty of this Indictment?

Penn. The Question is not, whether I am guilty of this Indictment, but, whether this Indictment be legal. It is too general an Answer to say, It is the common Law, unless we know both when, where, and what it is. For where there is no Law, there is no Transgression; and that Law which is not in Being, is so far from being common, that it is no Law at all.

Recorder. You are an Impertinent Fellow. Will you teach the Court what Law is? It's *Lex non Scripta*, that which many have studied thirty or forty Years to know, and would you have me tell you in a Moment?

Penn.

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Penn. Certainly if the *common Law* be so hard to be understood, it's far from being very *common*; but if the Lord Coke, in his *Institutes*, be of any Consideration, he tells us that *common Law* is *common Right*, and that *common Right* is the great *Charter-Privileges*, confirmed, 9 *Hen.* 3, 29. 25 *Edw.* 1. 1. 2 *Edw.* 3, 8. *Coke's Institutes* 2. p. 56.

Recorder. Sir, you are a troublesome Fellow, and 'tis not for the Honour of the Court to let you go on.

Penn. I have asked you but one Question, and you have not answered me, though the Rights and Privileges of every *Englishman* be concerned in it.

Recorder. If I should suffer you to ask Questions till To-morrow Morning, you would be never the wiser.

Penn. That's according as the Answers are.

Recorder. Sir, we must not stand to hear you talk all Night.

Penn. I design no Affront to the Court, but to be heard in my just Plea, and I must plainly tell you, that if you will deny me Oyer of that Law, which you suggest I have broken, you do at once deny me an acknowledged Right, and evidence to the whole World your Resolution to sacrifice the Privileges of *Englishmen* to your finister and arbitrary Designs.

Recorder. Take him away. My Lord, if you take not some Course with this pestilent Fellow, to stop his Mouth, we shall not be able to do any Thing To-night.

Mayor. Take him away: Take him away: Turn him into the Baledock.

Penn. These are but so many vain Exclamations. Is this Justice or true Judgment? Must I therefore be taken away, because I plead for the *fundamental Laws* of England. However, this I leave upon your Consciences, who are of the Jury (and my sole Judges) that if these ancient fundamental Laws, which relate to Liberty and Property (and are not limited to particular Persuasions in Matters of Religion) must not be indispensibly maintained and observed: Who can say he hath Right to the Coat upon his Back? Certainly our Liberties are openly to be invaded, our Wives to be ravished, our Children enslaved, our Families ruined, and our Estates led away in Triumph by every sturdy Beggar and malicious Informer as their Trophies, but our (pretended) Forfeit for Conscience-sake. The Lord of Heaven and Earth will be Judge between us in this Matter.

Recorder. Be silent there.

Penn. I am not to be silent in a Case wherein I am so much concerned, and not only my self, but many Ten-thousand Families beside.

Observation. They having rudely haled him into the Baledock, William

Mead they left in Court, who spake as followeth,

Mead. You Men of the Jury, here I do now stand to answer to an Indictment against me, which is a Bundle of Stuff full of Lies and Falshood; for therein I am accused that I met *vi & armis, illicitè & tumultuosè*. Time was, when I had Freedom to use a carnal Weapon, and then I thought I feared no Man, but now I fear the Living God, and dare not make Use thereof, nor hurt any Man; nor do I know I demeaned my self as a tumultuous Person. I say, I am a peaceable Man, therefore it is a very proper Question, what *William Penn* demanded in this Case, an Oyer of the Law on which our Indictment is grounded.

Recorder. I have made Answer to that already.

Mead, turning his Face to the Jury, said, You Men of the Jury, who are my Judges, if the Recorder will not tell you what makes a Riot, a Rout, or an unlawful Assembly; Cook, he that once they called the Lord Cook, tells us what makes a Riot, a Rout, or an unlawful Assembly. — A Riot is when three or more are met together to beat a Man, or to enter forcibly into another Man's Land, to cut down his Grass, his Wood, or break down his Pales.

Observ. Here the Recorder interrupted him, and said, I thank you, Sir, that you will tell me what Law is, scornfully putting off his Hat.

Mead. Thou mayst put on thy Hat; I have never a Fee for thee now.

Brown.

Brown. *He talks at Random: One while an Independent; another while some other Religion; and now a Quaker; and next a Papist.*

Mead. *Turpe est Doctori cum culpa redarguit ipsum.*

Mayor. *You deserve to have your Tongue cut out.*

Recorder. *If you discourse on this manner, I shall take Occasion against you.*

Mead. *Thou didst promise me I should have Liberty to be heard. Why may I not have the Privilege of an Englishman? I am an Englishman, and you may be ashamed of this Dealing.*

Recorder. *I look upon you to be an Enemy to the Laws of England, which ought to be observed and kept, nor are you worthy of such Privileges as others have.*

Mead. *The Lord is Judge between me and thee in this Matter.*

Observ. *Upon this they took him away into the Baledock, and the Recorder proceeded to give the Jury their Charge, as follows,*

Recorder. *You have heard what the Indictment is; it is for preaching to the People, and drawing a tumultuous Company after them, and Mr. Penn was speaking: There are three or four Witnesses that have proved this, that he did preach there, and that Mr. Mead did allow of it. After this you have heard by substantial Witnesses what is said against them. Now we are upon the Matter of Fact, which you are to keep to and observe, as what hath been fully sworn to, at your Peril.*

Observ. *The Prisoners were put out of the Court, and the Charge given to the Jury in their Absence, at which William Penn, with a very raised Voice, it being a considerable Distance from the Bench, spake,*

Penn. *I appeal to the Jury who are my Judges, and this great Assembly, whether the Proceedings of the Court are not most arbitrary, and void of all Law, in offering to give the Jury their Charge in the Absence of the Prisoners: I say it is directly opposite to, and destructive of the undoubted Right of every English Prisoner, as Coke in the 2 Institute, 29, on the Chap. of Magna Charta speaks.*

Observ. *The Recorder being thus unexpectedly lasht for his extrajudicial Procedure, said with an enraged Smile,*

Recorder. *Why you are present; you do hear, do you not?*

Penn. *No Thanks to the Court, that commanded me into the Baledock, and you of the Jury take Notice, that I have not been heard, neither can you legally depart the Court before I have been fully heard, having at least ten or twelve material Points to offer, to invalid their Indictment.*

Recorder. *Pull that Fellow down: Pull him down.*

Mead. *Are these according to the Rights and Privileges of Englishmen, that we should not be heard, but turned into the Baledock for making our Defence, and the Jury to have the Charge given them in our Absence: I say, these are barbarous and unjust Proceedings.*

Recorder. *Take them away into the Hole: To hear them talk all Night, as they would, that, I think, does not become the Honour of the Court, and, I think, you (i. e. the Jury) your selves would be tired out, and not have Patience to hear them.*

Observ. *The Jury were commanded up to agree upon their Verdict, the Prisoners remaining in the stinking Hole. After an Hour and an Half's Time, eight came down agreed, but four remained above: The Court sent an Officer for them, and they accordingly came down. The Bench used many unworthy Threats to the four that dissented; and the Recorder addressing himself to Bushel, said, Sir, you are the Cause of this Disturbance, and manifestly shew your self an Abettor of Faction, I shall set a Mark upon you, Sir.*

J. Robinson. *Mr. Bushel, I have known you near this fourteen Years: You have thrust your self upon this Jury, because you think there is some Service for you. I tell you, you deserve to be indicted more than any Man that hath been brought to the Bar this Day.*

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Busbel. No, Sir *John*, there were three-score before me, and I would willingly have got off, but could not.

Bloodworth. I said, when I saw Mr. *Busbel*, what I see is come to pass, for I knew he would never yield. Mr. *Busbel*, we know what you are.

Mayor. Sirrah, you are an impudent Fellow: I will put a Mark upon you.

Observ. They used much menacing Language, and behaved themselves very imperiously to the Jury, as Persons not more void of Justice, than sober Education. After this barbarous Usage, they sent them to consider of bringing in their Verdict; and after some considerable Time they returned to the Court. Silence was called for, and the Jury called by their Names.

Clerk. Are you agreed upon your Verdict?

Jury. Yes.

Clerk. Who shall speak for you?

Jury. Our Foreman.

Clerk. Look upon the Prisoners at the Bar. How say you? Is William Penn Guilty of the Matter whereof he stands indicted in Manner and Form, or Not guilty?

Verdict.

Foreman. Guilty of speaking in Gracious-street.

Court. Is that all?

Foreman. That is all I have in Commission.

Recorder. You had as good say nothing.

Mayor. Was it not an unlawful Assembly? You mean he was speaking to a Tumult of People there.

Foreman. My Lord, this was all I had in Commission.

Jury menaced.

Observ. Here some of the Jury seemed to buckle to the Question of the Court, upon which *Busbel*, *Hammond*, and some others, opposed themselves, and said, They allowed of no such Words, as an unlawful Assembly, in their Verdict: At which the Recorder, Mayor, Robinson, and *Bloodworth*, took great Occasion to vilify them with most opprobrious Language; and this Verdict not serving their Turns, the Recorder expressed himself thus,

Recorder. The Law of England will not admit you to depart, till you have given in your Verdict.

Jury. We have given in our Verdict, and we can give in no other.

Recorder. Gentlemen, you have not given in your Verdict, and you had as good say nothing: Therefore go and consider it once more, that we may make an End of this troublesome Business.

Jury. We desire we may have Pen, Ink, and Paper.

Observ. The Court adjourned for half an Hour, which being expir'd, the Court return'd, and the Jury not long after. The Prisoners were brought to the Bar, and the Juries Names called over.

Clerk. Are you agreed of your Verdict?

Jury. Yes.

Clerk. Who shall speak for you?

Jury. Our Foreman.

Clerk. What say you? Look upon the Prisoners. Is William Penn Guilty in Manner and Form as he stands indicted, or Not guilty.

Foreman. Here is our Verdict, holding forth a Piece of Paper to the Clerk of the Peace, which follows,

Verdict in Writing.

" We the Jurors hereafter-named, do find William Penn to be Guilty of
" speaking or preaching to an Assembly, met together in Gracious-street, the
" 14th of August last 1670, and that William Mead is Not Guilty of the said
" Indictment.

" Thomas Veer Foreman,	Henry Mitchel,	John Bailey,
" Edward Busbel,	John Brightman,	William Lever,
" John Hammond,	Charles Milson,	James Damask,
" Henry Henly,	Gregory Walklett,	William Plumsted."

Observ.

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Observ. This both Mayor and Recorder resented, at so high a rate, that they exceeded the Bounds of all Reason and Civility.

Mayor. What! Will you be led by such a silly Fellow as Busbel? An impudent canting Fellow. I warrant you, you shall come no more upon Juries in haste. You are a Foreman indeed, (addressing himself to the Foreman) I thought you had known your Place better.

Recorder. You shall not be dismissed, till we have a Verdict, that the Court will accept, and you shall be locked up without Meat, Drink, Fire, and Tobacco: You shall not think to abuse the Court: We will have a Verdict by the Help of God, or you shall starve for it.

Fury threatened.

Penn. My Jury, who are my Judges, ought not to be thus menaced; their Verdict should be free, and not compelled: The Bench ought to wait upon them, but not forestall them: I do desire that Justice may be done me, and that the arbitrary Resolves of the Bench may not be made the Measure of my Juries Verdict.

Recorder. Stop that prating Fellow's Mouth, or put him out of the Court.

Mayor. You have heard that he preached, that he gathered a Company of tumultuous People, and that they do not only disobey the Martial Power, but the Civil also.

Penn. It is a great Mistake: We did not make the Tumult, but they that interrupted us. The Jury cannot be so ignorant, as to think that we met there with a Design to disturb the Civil Peace: since first, We were by Force of Arms kept out of our lawful House, and met as near it in the Street as their Soldiers would give us Leave: And secondly, Because it was no new Thing, nor with the Circumstances expressed in the Indictment, but what was usual and customary with us: 'Tis very well known, that we are a peaceable People, and cannot offer Violence to any Man.

Observ. The Court being ready to break up, and willing to huddle the Prisoners to the Goal, and the Jury to their Chamber, Penn spake as follows,

Penn. The Agreement of twelve Men is a Verdict in Law, and such an One being given by the Jury, I require the Clerk of the Peace to record it, as will answer it at his Peril. And if the Jury bring another Verdict contradictory to this, I affirm, they are perjured Men in Law; and looking upon the Jury, said, You are Englishmen; mind your Privilege; give not away your Right.

Busbel, &c. Nor will we even do it.

Observ. One of the Jurymen pleaded Indisposition of Body, and therefore desired to be dismissed.

Mayor. You are as strong as any of them: Starve then, and hold your Principles.

Recorder. Gentlemen, you must be content with your hard Fate; let your Patience overcome it, for the Court is resolved to have a Verdict, and that before you can be dismissed.

Jury. We are agreed: We are agreed: We are agreed.

Observ. The Court swore several Persons to keep the Jury all Night, without Meat, Drink, Fire, or any Accommodation; they had not so much as a Chamberpot, though desired.

Crier. O Yes, &c.

Observ. The Court adjourn'd till seven of the Clock next Morning (being the 4th Instant, vulgarly called Sunday) at which Time the Prisoners were brought to the Bar, the Court sat, and the Jury was called to bring in their Verdict.

Crier. O Yes, &c. Silence in the Court upon Pain of Imprisonment.

The Juries Names called over.

Clerk. Are you agreed upon your Verdict?

Jury. Yes.

Clerk. Who shall speak for you?

Jury. Our Foreman.

Clerk.

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Clerk. *What say you? Look upon the Prisoners at the Bar: Is William Penn Guilty of the Matter whereof he stands indicted, in Manner and Form, or Not guilty?*

Foreman. *William Penn is Guilty of speaking in Gracious-street.*

Mayor. *To an unlawful Assembly.*

Busbel. *No, my Lord, we give no other Verdict than what was given last Night: We have no other Verdict to give.*

Mayor. *You are a factious Fellow: I'll take a Course with you.*

Bloodworth. *I knew Mr. Busbel would not yield.*

Busbel. *Sir Thomas, I have done according to my Conscience.*

Mayor. *That Conscience of yours would cut my Throat.*

Busbel. *No, my Lord, it never shall.*

Mayor. *But I will cut yours, so soon as I can.*

Recorder. *He has inspired the Jury: He has the Spirit of Drimulation in him. I will have a positive Verdict, or you shall starve for it.*

Penn. *I desire to ask the Recorder one Question; Do you allow of the Verdict given of William Mead.*

Recorder. *It cannot be a Verdict, because you are indicted of a Conspiracy, and One being found Guilty, and not the Other, it could not be a Verdict.*

Penn. *If Not guilty be not a Verdict, then you make of the Jury, and Magna Charta, a meer Nose of Wax.*

Mead. *How! Is Not guilty no Verdict?*

Recorder. *No, 'tis no Verdict.*

Penn. *I affirm, that the Consent of a Jury is a Verdict in Law; and if William Mead be Not guilty, it consequently follows that I am clear, since you have indicted us of a Conspiracy, and I could not possibly conspire alone.*

Observ. *There were many Passages, that could not be taken, which past between the Jury and the Court: The Jury went up again, having received a fresh Charge from the Bench, if possible, to extort an unjust Verdict.*

Crier. *O Yes, &c. Silence in the Court.*

Court. *Call over the Jury. Which was done.*

Clerk. *What say you? Is William Penn Guilty of the Matter whereof he stands indicted in Manner and Form aforesaid, or Not guilty.*

Foreman. *Guilty of speaking in Gracious-street.*

Recorder. *What is this to the Purpose? I say I will have a Verdict: And speaking to E. Busbel, said, You are a factious Fellow: I will set a Mark upon you: And whilst I have any Thing to do in the City, I will have an Eye upon you.*

Mayor. *Have you no more Wit than to be led by such a pitiful Fellow? I will cut his Nose.*

Penn. *It is intolerable that my Jury should be thus menaced. Is this according to the fundamental Laws? Are not they my proper Judges by the great Charter of England? What Hope is there of ever having Justice done, when Juries are threatened, and their Verdicts rejected? I am concerned to speak, and grieved to see such arbitrary Proceedings. Did not the Lieutenant of the Tower render one of them worse than a Felon? And do you not plainly seem to condemn such for factious Fellows, who answer not your Ends? Unhappy are those Juries who are threatned to be fined and starved, if they give not in Verdicts contrary to their Consciences.*

Recorder. *My Lord, you must take a Course with that same Fellow.*

Mayor. *Stop his Mouth, Goaler. Bring Fetters, and stake him to the Ground.*

Penn. *Do your Pleasure; I matter not your Fetters.*

Recorder. *Till now I never understood the Reason of the Policy and Prudence of the Spaniards in suffering the Inquisition among them: And certainly it will never be well with us, till something like the Spanish Inquisition be in England.*

Observ. *The Jury being required to go together to find another Verdict, and stedfastly refusing it, saying, They could give no other Verdict than what was already given; the Recorder was running off the Bench with these Words in his Mouth, I protest I will sit here no longer*

Spanish Inquisition.

longer to bear these Things : At which the Mayor calling, stay, stay, he returned, and directed himself to the Jury, and spake as follows,
 Recorder. *Gentlemen, we shall not be at this pass with you always : You will find next Sessions of Parliament there will be a Law made, that those who will not conform, shall not have the Protection of the Law. Mr. Lee, draw up another Verdict, that they may bring it in special.*

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Lee. *I cannot tell how to do it.*

Jury. *We ought not to be return'd, having all agreed, and set our Hands to the Verdict.*

Recorder. *Your Verdict is nothing : You play upon the Court : I say, you shall go together and bring in another Verdict, or you shall starve : And I will have you carted about the City, as in Edward the Third's Time.*

Foreman. *We have given in our Verdict, and all agreed to it ; and if we give in another, it will be a Force upon us to save our Lives.*

Mayor. *Take them up.*

Officer. *My Lord, they will not go up.*

Observ. *The Mayor spoke to the Sheriff, and he came off his Seat, and said,*

Sheriff. *Come, Gentlemen, you must go up : You see I am commanded to make you go.*

Observ. *Upon which the Jury went up, and several were sworn to keep them without any Accommodation, as aforesaid, till they brought in their Verdict.*

Crier. *O Yes, &c. The Court adjourns till To-morrow Morning at seven of the Clock.*

Observ. *The Prisoners were remanded to Newgate, where they remained till next Morning, and then were brought into the Court, which being sat, they proceeded as followeth,*

Clerk. *O Yes ! Silence in the Court upon Pain of Imprisonment.*

Clerk. *Set William Penn and William Mead to the Bar. Gentlemen of the Jury, answer to your Names, Thomas Veer, Charles Milson, Edward Bushel, Gregory Walklett, John Hammond, John Bailey, Henry Henly, William Lever, Henry Mitchel, James Damask, John Brightman, William Plumsted. Are you all agreed of your Verdict ?*

Jury. *Yes.*

Clerk. *Who shall speak for you ?*

Jury. *Our Foreman.*

Clerk. *Look upon the Prisoners : What say you ? Is William Penn Guilty of the Matter whereof he stands indicted in Manner and Form, or Not guilty ?*

Foreman. *You have there read in Writing already our Verdict, and our Hands subscribed.*

Observ. *The Clerk had the Paper, but was stopt by the Recorder from reading it ; and he commanded to ask for a positive Verdict.*

Foreman. *If you will not accept of it, I desire to have it back again.*

Court. *That Paper was no Verdict, and there shall be no Advantage taken against you by it.*

Clerk. *How say you ? Is William Penn Guilty, or Not guilty ?*

Foreman. *Not guilty.*

Clerk. *How say you ? Is William Mead Guilty, &c. or Not guilty ?*

Foreman. *Not guilty.*

Clerk. *Then hearken to your Verdict. You say, that William Penn is Not guilty in Manner and Form as he stands indicted : You say, that William Mead is Not guilty in Manner and Form as he stands indicted, and so you say all.*

Jury. *Yes : We do so.*

Observ. *The Bench, being unsatisfied with the Verdict, commanded that every Person should distinctly answer to their Names, and give in their Verdict, which they unanimously did in saying Not guilty, to the great Satisfaction of the Assembly.*

Final Verdict.

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Fury fined.

Recorder. I am sorry, Gentlemen, you have followed your own Judgments and Opinions rather than the good and wholesome Advice that was given you : God keep my Life out of your Hands. But for this the Court fines you forty Marks a Man, and Imprisonment till paid.

Penn. I demand my Liberty, being freed by the Jury.

Mayor. No : You are in for your Fines.

Penn. Fines, for what ?

Mayor. For Contempt of the Court.

Penn. I ask if it be according to the fundamental Laws of England; that any Englishman should be fined or amerced, but by the Judgment of his Peers or Jury, since it expressly contradicts the 14th and 29th Chapter of the great Charter of England, which says, "No Freeman ought to be amerced, but by the Oath of good and lawful Men of the Vicinage."

Recorder. Take him away : Take him away : Take him out of the Court.

Penn. I can never urge the fundamental Laws of England, but you cry, Take him away : Take him away : But it is no Wonder since the Spanish Inquisition hath so great a Place in the Recorder's Heart.

Observ. They haled the Prisoners into the Baledock, and from thence they were sent to Newgate for Non-payment of their Fines, and so were their Jury.

Thus ended that memorable Trial, wherein the ancient and just Liberties of the People were notably asserted against the arbitrary Proceedings of Men in Power, who would have made their Wills a Law, according to that Saying of Juvenal,

Sic volo, sic jubeo, stat pro Ratione voluntas.

Trial of T. Moore and others.

At the same Sessions, Francis Moore, Richard Mayfield, Richard Mew, Richard Knowlman, and Gilbert Hutton, whom we before mentioned to have been taken from a Meeting at Grace-church-street ; Richard Thornton, Charles Banister, Job Bolton, Ezekiel Archer, Margery Fann, and Samuel Slaughter, who had been taken by the Sheriffs from a Meeting near Bishop's-gate ; Job Bolton, an ancient Citizen, and Thomas Rudyard, a Man skilful in the Law of the Land, and zealous for the Liberties of the People, were brought to Trial upon like Indictments, for meeting in a riotous Manner. The same Jury, who acquitted Penn and Mead, had been also sworn in Court to try these other Quakers, but were prevented by that extraordinary Proceeding of the Court in fining and imprisoning them.

The Mayor angry.

Prisoners fined for their Hats.

A pickt Jury.

Upon the Appearance of the thirteen last mentioned in Court, and their not paying the usual Hat-honour which the Bench expected, the Mayor, with great Indignation, called out to the Officers of the Court, saying, *Pox on them : Knock them all down :* But the Marshals and Goalers having more Humanity, offered no other Violence to the Prisoners than pulling off their Hats, for which the Mayor rebuked them, and ordered them to put the Prisoners Hats upon their Heads again, which was no sooner done at his Command, but presently the Clerk of the Peace required every of the Prisoners, in Obedience and Reverence to the Court, to pull off their own Hats : The Prisoners not complying with such ridiculous and whimsical Commands, the Recorder gave Orders to the Officers to pull off all their Hats a second Time, and fined them, some twenty Marks, and others twenty Nobles, using many frothy Expressions, and reproaching the Prisoners whom he so illegally fined. This was on the 3d of September, when the first Jury was impanelled and sworn to try them, but that Jury being imprisoned, a new Pannel was summoned by the Sheriffs to appear on the 5th of the same Month, when, in the Afternoon, the Prisoners were called, and the Recorder perusing the Pannel of the last summoned Jury, gave Directions to the Clerk to call them over, who, it was observed, pickt here and there such Persons who were most likely to answer the Designs

of the Bench, not calling over the Pannel in direct Course and Order as usual. LONDON, &c. 1670.

The Prisoners unanimously protested against this second Jury, desiring to know by what Law or Precedent two Juries could be sworn to try one and the same Fact? The Recorder answered, *That the first Jury was imprisoned for a Misdemeanour, (meaning the Acquitting of Penn and Mead) and that the Prisoners must take that for an Answer.* The Prisoners still insisting to know, By what Law or Custom such Proceedings could be justified? were answered, *That the Court had over-ruled them.* They yet urging, that the Law ought to be the Rule and Guide of all Courts of Justice, and that such arbitrary Answers, as *The Court over-rules you*, were not sufficient to satisfy their reasonable Demands; the Recorder in a great Rage told one of the Prisoners, *That he should be gagged, and deserved to have his Tongue bor'd through with a red-hot Iron*; with many other opprobrious Expressions; telling them, *It should suffice that the Court was of Opinion against them, and did over-rule them.* To which the Mayor joined his Authority, saying also, *We will over-rule you.*

The Clerk of the Peace proceeded to swear the second Jury; and the Prisoners objected against several of them, but their lawful Challenges were rejected by the Bench, still crying out, *The Court over-rules you.* The Names of this second Jury were,

Henry Stead, Foreman,	Thomas Mosse,	Edward Langton,
Edward Dormer,	John Ashborne,	Henry Offly,
Edward Hanney,	Walter Hungerford,	Thomas Pendleton,
Robert Twisford,	Robert Cooper,	Daniel Walton.

Furors
Names.

The Jury being sworn, the Clerk of the Peace read the Indictment against Francis Moore, Richard Mew, Richard Mayfield, Richard Knowlman, and Gilbert Hutton; as also that against Richard Thornton, Charles Banister, and Job Bolton, and their Indictments for Matter and Form being alike, they were tried together: The Witnesses were one Whiting, a Beadle of the Bridge-Ward, and some of the Sheriffs Officers. The Substance of their Evidence was, *That they saw the Prisoners in Grace-church-street among the Assembly of People, and that they staid there till after Proclamation was made for all Persons to depart.*

The Prisoners being askt, *What they could say for themselves?* answered, *That they owned they were at Gracious-street, met together to worship the Living God in Spirit and in Truth, against which there is no Law: And farther said, That the Indictment consisted of much Matter, as meeting with Force and Arms to disturb the Peace, and continuing there riotously and tumultuously in Contempt of the King and his Laws, and against the King's Crown and Dignity, which none of the Witnesses had sworn, and therefore they desired to know, upon what Law they were indicted, and that the Law might be produced and read to the Jury, that thereby they might know whether they had made a Breach of any just Law.* The Recorder answered, *That he was not bound to produce the Law, for it was Lex non Scripta.* Then replied the Prisoners, *How shall the Jury know whether we are guilty of the Breach thereof?* The Recorder replied, *It is the common Law, which you have broken in your tumultuous Assemblies, and staying there after Proclamations were made to depart.* The Prisoners alledged, *That the Indictment set forth, that three several Proclamations were made, whereas but one was made that Day.* Whereupon the Witnesses were again examined, *Whether there were not three Proclamations made?* Upon which the Mayor demanded of one of the Witnesses, *Whether O Yes was not said thrice.* The Witnesses answered, *That the Officer, who made Proclamation, said O Yes three Times.* Then said the Mayor, *That was three Proclamations.* A forced Construction, but such as shewed the Mayor's Partiality, and his Inclination to convict the Prisoners. The Prisoners farther urged, *That they were always peaceable and quiet in their Assemblies: That the Law against Riots was never intended against*

LONDON, against them, but against *Popish*, and such like, Disturbers of the Peace. To which the Recorder answered, *That the Papists were better Subjects to the King than they, and that they were a stubborn and dangerous People, and must either be brought under, or there were no safe Living by them.*

The Prisoners offered to vindicate themselves from the Aspersions of the Recorder, telling him, That they had broken no just Law to their Knowledge, and that they never had been *Guilty* of being *Rioters*, or *Routers*, as pretended; of which they desired the Jury to take Notice, and that the Witnesses had not proved any such Thing against them.

Upon this the Mayor and Recorder commanded the Goaler to thrust the Prisoners into the *Baledock*, and in their Absence the Recorder gave the Charge to the Jury, not so much summing up the Evidence, (which indeed proved not one tenth Part of the Indictment) as giving Accusations of his own, telling the Jury, *That they were a refractory People, delighting in Deeds of Darknes, and that they must be suppressed, and that upon the Indictment they must bring them in Guilty*: Which the Jury, prepared for the Purpose, readily did.

The next that were called to their Trial were *Ezekiel Archer* and *Margery Fann*, who having been indicted as *Rioters* the Sessions before, and the Evidence being insufficient to convict them, the Court had ordered them to be detained on an Indictment of Felony, which was drawn up against them: But the Attempt against them in that Case was so apparently unjust and malicious, that even this Jury (how partial soever in others Cases) brought them in *Not Guilty*.

At the Close of the Sessions, all the Prisoners, convicted by this second Jury, were called down to the Sessions-house; where they all Day expected to be called into the Court to receive Judgment, having prepared Exceptions in Arrest of Judgment to be delivered to the Recorder in Writing. But of the expected Defence they were prevented, the Bench passing their Sentences without any of their hearing them, the Tenour of which, as appeared by the *Newgate Book*, was,

Sentenced to
be fined.

John Bolton fined forty Marks, *William Bayly* fined 3*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* *William Penn* forty Marks, *Francis Moore* twenty Marks, *Richard Mew*, *Richard Mayfield*, *Richard Knowles*, *Gilbert Hutton*, *Richard Thornton*, *Charles Banister*, *Job Bolton*, and *Thomas Rudyard*, every of them, twenty Marks a piece; and *Ezekiel Archer* forty Marks, for diverse evil Carriages and Contempts in Words and Deeds by them severally, openly, voluntarily, and obstinately, committed in and towards the Court. And the Court gave farther Judgment or Censure, viz. *Francis Moore*, *Richard Mew*, *Richard Mayfield*, *Richard Knowlman*, *Gilbert Hutton*, *Richard Thornton*, *Charles Banister*, *Job Bolton*, *Katharine Everett*, *John Bolton*, and *William Bayley*, fined every of them twenty Marks a piece, and *Thomas Rudyard* fined 100*l.* being convict of several Trespasses and Contempts, and to be committed to Prison until every of them pay their respective Fines.

Ordered to be
put into an
infected
House.

The Court, understanding that their Goal of *Newgate* was so full of Prisoners that there could be no tolerable Entertainment for these new Convicts, discoursed with the Keepers where to imprison them; and the Bench being informed that, during that Sessions, two Persons, one the Master of the House, the other a Prisoner, had died of the *Spotted-Fever*, or *Pestilence*, out of the Dog by *Newgate*, ordered these *Quakers* to be imprisoned there, and a Keeper was appointed to prevent their going out on any Occasion: But through the Goodness of God, they were preserved in Health, beyond the Expectation of their Friends, or Hope of their Enemies, who it was thought shut them up, in that infected House, with an evil Design against them.

Ratcliff
Meeting-
house demo-
lished.

Having related the Transactions at this Sessions, we return to the Meetings in and about the City: On the 2d of September, Sir *John Robinson*, Lieutenant of the *Tower*, with one Captain *Taylor*, and a Company of Soldiers belonging to the King's Regiment, demolished and pulled down the Meeting-house at *Ratcliff*, and carried away, that Day and the Night following, twelve Cart-Loads

Loads of Doors, Windows, and Floors, with other Materials, as Glafs LONDON, Casements, and Lead, all the Tiles being broken in pieces. Some of the Materials they sold upon the Place for Money and Strong-drink. &c. 1670.

On the 8th of the same Month, the following Order of the Lord-Mayor's Court was issued, and affixed to the Door of the Meeting-house in Gracechurch-street, viz.

*Jovis, Octavo die Septembris 1670,
Anno Regni Regis Caroli secundi 22^o.*

“STARLING, Mayor.

“UPON Complaint made to this Court, of an House in Gracious-street,
“called the Quakers Meeting-house, that the same is in it self an irre-
“gular Building, against the Form directed by the late Act of Parliament
“for building of the City of London; and used or employed for a seditious
“Meeting or Conventicle, contrary to another late Act of Parliament for
“the preventing and suppressing seditious Conventicles, and to the great
“Danger and Disturbance of the Peace and good Government of the City.
“This Court doth straitly require and prohibit all Persons for the future for
“to meet or assemble in the said House for any Exercise of Religion,
“other than according to the Liturgy or Practice of the Church of England,
“and doth declare and order, that if any Persons shall at any Time from
“henceforth presume to meet or assemble in the said House to the said un-
“lawful Purpose; this Court will thereupon forthwith proceed for the Re-
“ducing or demolishing of the said House, according to the said Act of
“Parliament in this Behalf, unless the Owner or Owners thereof shall the next
“Day after such next unlawful Conventicle or Meeting there, appear, and
“shew their Right and Title to the said House, and give Satisfaction and
“Assurance for the reforming, and lawful using and employing the same for
“the future.”

Order of
the Lord-
Mayor's
Court con-
cerning
Grace-
church-
street Meet-
ing-house.

On the 11th of September, the Friends of Ratcliff, attempting to meet on the Ruins of their demolished Meeting-house there, were kept out by a Constable and other Officers, and five of them, viz. Edward Goodwin, Benjamin Whitehead, Thomas Lacey, John Yarnnton, and John Pantlin, were sent to Prison by Order of Justice Rycroft. On the 17th, John Selwood, for himself, and seventeen others, meeting at the same Place, was fined 4*l.* 10*s.* for which his Goods were taken away by Distress. On the 18th, the Friends there being met as near the Ruins of their demolished House as the Constable would permit, six of them, viz. William Ward, Francis Creak, William Dickson, Daniel Harrison, Matthew Draper, and Thomas Dofwin, were committed to New-Prison. On the 19th, Richard Knowelman, then a Prisoner in Newgate, had a Quantity of Yarn taken from him for a Fine of 5*s.* for being at a Meeting in Ratcliff: And for the same Cause, Joseph Dennis had two Books taken from him worth 14*s.*

Meeting on
the Ruins at
Ratcliff.

On the 25th of the same Month, John Wrenn, Thomas Paul, Francis Cooley, Richard Cock, Richard Guy, John Smith, Joshua Sparrow, and George Tipping, were taken from a Meeting in Wheeler-street, and by Sir John Robinson, Lieutenant of the Tower, committed to Newgate as Rioters.

On the 28th, William Bevan, Roger Peddrick, and Stephen Foster, for frequenting religious Meetings, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 1*l.* 17*s.*

On the 6th of October, Theophilus Green, with those eight last mentioned to have been taken at Wheeler-street Meeting, were brought to the Sessions at Hicks's-hall, where the Court waved all Proceeding on the Causes for which they were committed, as deeming them insufficient, and tendred to them all, and also to one John Maddocks, who was casually in the Court, the Oath of Allegiance, and upon their Refusal to take it, recommitted them to Newgate till the next Quarter Sessions; at which, being about three Months after, they were all indicted for refusing the Oath, found Guilty, and received Sentence of

Oath tendred
to T. Green
and others.

LONDON.

1670.

Distresses.

Premunire, under which they lay Prisoners in the *King's-Bench* till discharged by the King's Letters Patent about twenty Months after.

Several others in the County of *Middlesex*, about this Time, were fined, and suffered Distresses of their Goods for Meeting, viz. *Richard Heale*, and *Edward Swift*, of *Uxbridge*, who were fined at several Times to the Value of near 70*l.* each; and *Robert Roberts*, of *Windsor*. Also *Robert Denmet*, of *Colebrook*, had Goods taken from him, for the same Cause, to the Value of 14*l.* From *Anne Elkington*, a blind Widow, for a Meeting at *Colebrook*, Goods were taken worth 12*l.* And at another Time, the Remainder of her Goods were swept away, so that they left her not a Pot to boil Meat in for her Guests, she being an Inn-keeper. And from *Bridget Atley*, a Widow at *Haurton*, they took away Goods to the Value of 14*l.*

On the 9th of the same Month, about thirty Persons, taken at the *Peel* Meeting, were committed to Prison, among whom were *Nicholas Cooper*, *William Parker*, and *Thomas Anderson*. On the 25th, at *Ratcliff*, were taken for Fines for Meeting, from *Joseph Cadle*, Cloth worth 7*s* 6*d.* *Thomas Davis*, Goods worth 8*s.* and from *Edward Harmer*, to the Value of 16*s.*

On the 6th of *November*, at the *Peel*, the Friends were kept out of their Meeting-house by Soldiers, one of whom, with a great Staff, struck many of them violently on the Head; another, with his Musket, knockt down a young Man, named *John Thorpe*, so that his Musket was broke with the Blow: The Wound was very deep, and bled much; he also bled greatly at the Nose, and when lifted up was unable to stand: Being had to Bed, he became stiff, and rutled in the Throat, so that it was thought he would have died: *Lydia Oades*, who for speaking a few Words at the same Meeting, was carried before Justice *Smith* in *Goswell-street*, acquainted him of the young Man's Case: He sent for the Soldiers, and examining who struck the Blow, one of them answered, *I, Sir*: And being askt the Cause, said, *They forc'd upon us*, which was not true; however he past without farther Examination; but the Soldiers swearing that *Lydia Oades* had preached at the Meeting, she was fined 20*l.* and so dismissd.

On the 13th of the same Month, forty one Persons, taken at a Meeting in *Westbury-street*, near *Wheeler-street*, were committed to *New-Prison* by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

“ *Midd^x. /s.*

“ *To the Keeper of New-Prison for the said County, or*
“ *his Deputy there.*

Commitment
of 41 Persons
to New-Pri-
son.

“ **R** E C E I V E into your Custody the several and respective Persons
“ here under-named, who were here this Day taken at an unlawful As-
“ sembly in the King's Highway, in or near *Spittlefields*, in the Parish of
“ *Stepney* in the County aforesaid, to the great Disturbance of his Majesty's
“ Peace, the which Assembly might have proved of very dangerous Conse-
“ quence if it had not been timely prevented and suppressed. And being
“ desired and required by a certain Ward, who attended to preserve his
“ Majesty's Peace, as also by his Majesty's Soldiers, who were likewise ap-
“ pointed for the suppressing such unlawful Assemblies, to depart out of his
“ Majesty's Highway. And forasmuch as the said several and respective Per-
“ sons have been by me required to find Sureties for their several and respective
“ good Behaviours, and their personal Appearances at the next Sessions of the
“ Peace to be holden for the said County, then and there to answer to their
“ several and respective Faults, and they have refused so to do. You shall
“ therefore receive the said Persons whom I send you herewith into your
“ Custody, and them safely keep until they shall be enlarged by due Order
“ and Course of his Majesty's Laws; for which this shall be your Warrant.
“ Given under my Hand and Seal at *Stepney* this 13th Day of *November* 1670.

“ *John*

At the *Peel*
Meeting a
young Man
almost killed.

L. Oades
fined.

John Price, Peter Walker, Ezekiel Wooley,
 John Budd, Richard Stubbs, Anthony Ellwood,
 Thomas Living, Edward Dalton, Isaac Kirton,
 Thomas Miles, Henry Salter, Richard Smith,
 George Brvis, Thomas Minks, Thomas Sprigg,
 Henry Worley, John Day, William Russell,
 Henry Holmer, Thomas Love, Richard Baker,
 William Baker, Thomas Burbank, George Fowler,
 Thomas Howgill, Thomas Spire, Samuel Thornton,
 Henry Wills, John Heywood, Samuel Coles,
 Joseph Taylor, Thomas Scott, Alexander Green,
 William Tillett, Simon Marshall, Humphry Hull, and
 Thomas Bayly, Joseph Wilkinson, George Barr,
 Maurice Brown, Isaac Burdett,

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 1670.

By this Warrant, issued from one of the Justices of Middlesex, they were conveyed to New-Prison, and received by Joseph Green, the Keeper, a Man of a rugged Disposition, from whom they met with very hard Usage, for he would not suffer them to Work at their Trades, which they had prepared to do, being many of them poor Men; he also caused their Hammocks, which they had provided to lodge in, to be thrown into the Yard, and obliged them to lie on the bare Bricks. Three other of his Prisoners, viz. Robert How, John Yarnon, and William Dickson, were by him put into the Dungeon, after he had grievously beaten and abused them, so that the Blood of two of them ran down, and the Dog came and licked it up. Add to this inhumane and barbarous Treatment, that he would not suffer their Friends to relieve or visit them.

We must go back a little in point of Time to relate, that at a Court of Aldermen, held in the former Part of the last Month at Guild-hall, it was proposed to give the Recorder a Gratuity for his extraordinary Pains in the last Sessions at the Old-Bailey, in trying the Quakers, and an Order was made, dated the 8th of October 1670, to pay him for that Service an hundred Pounds, which Order was entred in the Chamberlain's Office for him to pay it. Thus his eager Prosecution of this People was adjudged meritorious, and amply rewarded.

Reward voted
 for the Re-
 corder.

On the 4th of December, Patrick Levingstone, and twelve others, taken at a Meeting in Ratcliff, were carried before Sir John Robinson, Lieutenant of the Tower, who committed him to Newgate for six Months on the Oxford Act. He also rendred the Oath of Allegiance to John Ellis, and committed him to the same Prison, and fined the rest of them.

Commitment
 of P. Leving-
 stone and J.
 Ellis.

On the 11th, at the same Place, John Tysoe, preaching, was pulled down by a Serjeant and Soldiers, who carried him before Sir John Robinson, and he committed him to Newgate for six Months on the Oxford Act. On the 27th were taken from Francis Collins, of Ratcliff, for Fines for Meetings, Goods worth 6l. And on the 30th, for the same Cause, from Percival Toole, a Baker, Bread worth 13 s. And from John Fry, Pewter weighing eight Pounds.

J. Tysoe im-
 prisoned.

Distresses.

On the 22d of the Month called January, two Servants of the Priest of Stepney came to the Meeting at Ratcliff, and dragged away the Preacher; and one of them struck several Friends with a Cane, till he broke it: A Woman attempting to save her Head by holding up her Arm, he struck her such a Blow on the Arm that the Blood ran down.

Abuses.

On the 26th, at the same Place, they were kept out by Soldiers; one of whom struck a Friend a fore Blow on the Forehead with the Barrel of his Musket; and another Friend kneeling down to Prayer, the Soldiers pulled him away by Force, and led him to the Tower.

On the 12th of the Month called February, Stephen Smith, preaching in the Meeting there, was taken by Soldiers, and carried before a Justice, who sent him to Newgate for six Months.

On

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&c.
1670.

W. Penn carried from
Wheeler-
street Meeting to the
Tower.

His Examination.

On the 5th of the Month called *February*, *William Penn* being at a Meeting in *Wheeler-street*, a Serjeant with Soldiers came and planted themselves at the Door, where they waited till he stood up and preached, and then the Serjeant pulled him down, and led him into the Street, where a Constable and his Assistants being ready to join them, they carried him away to the Tower, having Orders from the Lieutenant for that Purpose. A Guard was there clapt upon him, and a Messenger dispatht to the Lieutenant, then at *Whitehall*, to inform him of the Success: After about three Hours, at Evening, he came Home, and *William Penn* was sent for from the Guard by a File of Musquetiers. There were, together with Sir *John Robinson* the Lieutenant, Sir *Samuel Starling*, Sir *John Sheldon*, Lieutenant Colonel *Rycroft*, and others; before whom he past the following Examination, viz.

Sir John Robinson. *What is this Person's Name?*

Note. The *Mittimus* was already made, and his Name put in.

Constable. Mr. Penn, Sir.

J. R. Is your Name Penn?

W. P. Dost thou not know me? Hast thou forgot me?

J. R. I don't know you: I don't desire to know such as you are.

W. P. If not, why didst thou send for me hither?

J. R. Is that your Name, Sir?

W. P. Yes, yes, my Name is *Penn*, thou know'st it is: I am not ashamed of my Name.

J. R. Constable, where did you find him?

Constable. At *Wheeler-street*, at a Meeting, speaking to the People.

J. R. You mean he was speaking to an unlawful Assembly.

Constable. I don't know indeed, Sir; he was there, and he was speaking.

J. R. Give them their Oaths.

W. P. Hold: Don't swear the Men, there is no Need of it: I freely acknowledge I was at *Wheeler-street*, and that I spake to an Assembly of People there.

J. R. and several others. He confesses it.

W. P. I do so. I am not ashamed of my Testimony.

J. R. No matter: Give them their Oaths.

Note. They were sworn to answer such Questions as should be asked, upon which they gave the Evidence before given by the Constable.

J. R. Mr. Penn, you know the Law better than I can tell you, and you know these Things are contrary to Law.

W. P. If thou believest me to be better known in the Law than thy self, hear me; for I know no Law I have transgressed. All Laws are to be considered, strictly and literally, or more explanatorily and lenitively. In the first Sense the Execution of many Laws may be *extrema Injuria*, the greatest Wrong. In the Latter, Wisdom and Moderation. I would have thee make that Part thy Choice. Now whereas I am probably to be try'd by the late Act against Conventicles, I conceive it doth not reach me.

J. R. No, Sir, I shall not proceed upon that Law.

W. P. What Law then? I am sure that was intended for the Standard on these Occasions.

J. R. The Oxford Act of six Months.

W. P. That of all Laws can't concern me, for, first, I was never in Orders, neither Episcopally, nor Classically, and one of them is intended by the Preamble of the Act.

J. R. No, no: Any that speak in unlawful Assemblies; and you spoke in an unlawful Assembly.

W. P. Two Things are to be considered. First, that the Words, such as speak in unlawful Assemblies, alter the Case much; for such is relative of the Preamble, and cannot concern Persons in any other Qualification than under some Ordination or Mark of Priesthood. I am persuaded thou know'st I am no such Person: I was never ordain'd, nor have I any particular Charge or Stipend

Stipend that may intitle me to such a Function, and therefore I am wholly unconcerned in the Word *such*. Secondly, *An unlawful Assembly* is too general a Word, the Act does not define what is meant by an *unlawful Assembly*.

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J. R. *But other Acts do.*

W. P. That's not to the Purpose; for that may be an *unlawful Assembly* in one Act, that may by Circumstances not be so adjudged in another: And its hard that you will not stick to some one Act or Law; but to accomplish your Ends, borrow a Piece out of one Act to supply the Defects of another, and of a different Nature from it.

J. R. *Will you Swear? Will you take the Oath that the Act requires of you?*

W. P. This is not to the Purpose.

J. R. *Read him the Oath.*

The OATH.
"I W. P. do swear that it is not lawful, upon any Pretence whatsoever,
"to take Arms against the King, and that I do abhor that traitorous Position
"of taking Arms by his Authority against his Person, or against those that
"are commissioned by him, in Pursuance of such Commissions; and that
"I will not at any Time endeavour any Alteration of Government either in
"Church or State."

J. R. *Will you take it, or no?*

W. P. What need I take an Oath not to do that it is my Faith not to do, so far as concerns the King?

Lieutenant Price. *Then Swear it.*

W. P. The Oath in that Respect is already answered to all Intents and Purposes; for if I can't fight against any Man, (much less against the King) what need I take an Oath not to do it? Should I Swear not to do what is already against my Conscience to do?

J. R. *You won't take the Oath then.*

W. P. What if I refuse the Oath, not because of the Matter contained in it, (which only can criminate in the Sense of the Act) but of scrupling any Oath? Shall I therefore be committed to Prison? 'Twas about Fighting, the Oath and Act were designed, and not taking of Oaths. Therefore the Denying to Swear, where there is a Denial to fight or plot, is no equitable Ground for Commitment.

J. R. *Do you refuse to Swear?*

W. P. Yes, and that upon better Grounds than those for which thou wouldst have me Swear, if thou wilt please to hear me.

J. R. *I am sorry you should put me upon this Severity: It is no pleasant Work to me.*

W. P. These are but Words. It is manifest that this is a prepense Malice; thou hast several Times laid the Meetings for me, and this Day particularly.

J. R. *No, I profess I could not tell you would be there.*

W. P. Thine own Corporal told me, that you had Intelligence at the Tower, that I would be at *Wheeler-street* To-day, almost as soon as I knew it myself. It is disingenuous and partial. I never gave thee Occasion for such Unkindness.

J. R. *I knew no such Thing: But if I had, I confess I should have sent for you.*

W. P. That might have been spar'd: I do heartily believe it.

J. R. *I vow, Mr. Penn, I am sorry for you: You are an ingenious Gentleman, all the World must allow you, and does allow you that; and you have a plentiful Estate: Why should you render your self unhappy by associating with such a simple People?*

W. P. I confess I have made it my Choice, to relinquish the Company of those that are ingeniously wicked, to converse with those that are more honestly simple.

J. R. *I wish you wiser.*

W. P. And I wish thee better.

LONDON,

8c

1670.

J. R. *You have been as bad as other Folks.*W. P. *When and where? I charge thee to tell the Company to my Face.*J. R. *Abroad, and at Home too.*Sir John Sheldon, as is supposed. *No, Sir John, that's too much, or Words to that Purpose.*W. P. *I make this bold Challenge to all Men, Women, and Children, upon Earth, justly to accuse me with ever having seen me drunk, hear me swear, utter a Curse, or speak one obscene Word, (much less that I have made it my Practice.) I speak this to God's Glory, that has ever preserved me from the Power of those Pollutions, and that from a Child begot an Hatred in me towards them. But there is nothing more common, than that when Men are of a more severe Life than ordinary, for loose Persons to comfort themselves with the Conceit, that they were once as they are; and as if there was no Collateral or Oblique Line of the Compass, or Globe, Men may be said to come from to the Arctick-Pole, but directly and immediately from the Antariick. Thy Words shall be thy Burden, and I trample thy Slander under my Feet.*J. R. *Well, Mr. Penn, I have no Ill-will towards you: Your Father was my Friend, and I have a great deal of Kindness for you.*W. P. *But thou hast an ill Way of expressing it. You are grown too high to consider the Plea of those you call your Fore-fathers, for Liberty of Conscience against the Papists, Cranmer, Latimer, Ridley, Bradford, &c. 'Twas then Plea good enough, My Conscience won't let me go to Mass, and my Conscience wills that I should have an English Testament: But that single Plea for Separation, then reasonable, is now by you, that pretend to succeed them, adjudged unreasonable and factious: I say, since the only Cause of the first Revolt from Rome was a Dissatisfaction in point of Conscience, you cannot reasonably persecute others who have Right to the same Plea, and allow that to be warrantable.*J. R. *But you do nothing but stir up the People to Sedition, and there was one of your Friends that told me, that you preached Sedition, and meddled with the Government.*W. P. *We have the Unhappiness to be misrepresented, and I am not the least concerned therein. Bring me the Man that will dare to justify this Accusation to my Face, and if I am not able to make it appear, that it is both my Practice, and all my Friends, to instill Principles of Peace and Moderation, and only to war against spiritual Wickedness, that all Men may be brought to fear God and work Righteousness, I shall contentedly undergo the severest Punishment all your Laws can expose me to. And as for the King, I make this Offer, that if any living can make appear, directly or indirectly, from the Time I have been called a Quaker, (since from thence you date me seditious) I have contrived or acted any Thing injurious to his Person, or the English Government, I shall submit my Person to your utmost Cruelties, and esteem them all but a due Recompence. 'Tis hard that I, being innocent, should be reputed Guilty, but the Will of God be done: I accept of bad Report as well as good.*J. R. *Well, I must send you to Newgate for six Months, and when they are expir'd, you will come out.*W. P. *Is that all? Thou well know'st, a * larger Imprisonment has not daunted me. I accept it at the Hand of the Lord, and am content to suffer his Will. Alas! you mistake your Interest: You'll miss your Aim: This is not the Way to compass your Ends.*J. R. *You bring your self into Trouble: You will be heading Parties, and drawing People after you.*

W. P.

* This probably refers to a former Imprisonment of his in the Tower of London, Anno 1668, mentioned in his Preface to that excellent Treatise, intituled *No Cross, No Crown*, which was writ during that Imprisonment.

W. P. Thou mistakest: There is no such Way as this to render Men remarkable: You are angry that I am considerable, and yet you take the very Way to make me so, by making this Bustle and Stir about one peaceable Person.

J. R. I wish your rubbing to these Things do not convert you to something at last.

W. P. I would have thee and all Men to know, that I scorn that Religion which is not worth Suffering for, and able to sustain them that are afflicted for it. Mine is: And whatever may be my Lot for my constant Profession of it, I am no ways careful, but resigned to answer the Will of God, by the Loss of Goods, Liberty, and Life it self. When you have all, you can have no more, and then perhaps you will be contented, and by that you will be better informed of our Innocency. Thy Religion persecutes, and mine forgives: And I desire my God to forgive you all that are concerned in my Commitment, and I leave you all in perfect Charity, wishing your everlasting Salvation.

J. R. Send a Corporal with a File of Musquetiers along with him.

W. P. No, no: Send thy Lacquey: I know the Way to Newgate.

His Mitimus was as follows, viz.

“ *Midd^x*. fs.

“ **W**HEREAS William Penn, Esq; stands duly convicted before us,
 “ whose Names are subscribed, two of his Majesty's Justices of the
 “ Peace for the said County, upon the Oaths of four credible Witnesses, for
 “ assuming and taking upon him to preach in a certain unlawful Assembly,
 “ Conventicle, or Meeting, holden upon this Day, being the fifth Day of
 “ this Instant Month of February, under Colour or Pretence of Exercise of
 “ Religion, contrary to the Laws and Statutes of this Realm, within the
 “ Parish of Stepney in the County of Middlesex, which Parish is within five
 “ Miles and less of the City of London. And hereupon we tendred unto
 “ him the said William Penn the Oath prescribed in and by an Act of this
 “ present Parliament, intituled, *An Act for restraining Non-conformists from*
 “ *inhabiting in Corporations*; which Oath he hath refused to take and subscribe.
 “ These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to will and require you, forth-
 “ with upon Sight hereof, to receive into your Custody the Body of the said
 “ William Penn, whom we send you herewith, and him there safely to keep,
 “ without Bail or Mainprize, for the Space of six Months, for which this shall
 “ be your Warrant. Given under our Hands and Seals the fifth Day of
 “ February, Anno Domini 1670.

“ J. ROBINSON, Lieutenant of the Tower.

“ JOSIAH RICOFT.

“ *Vera Copia*, p. ROB^t WARNER, Clerk of Newgate.”

ANNO 1671. During this Imprisonment of William Penn in Newgate, he writ the following Letter

“ To the High Court of PARLIAMENT.

“ **F**ORASMUCH as it hath pleased you to make an Act, intituled,
 “ *An Act for preventing seditious Conventicles*, the dangerous Practices
 “ of seditious Sectaries, &c. And that under Pretence of Authority from it,
 “ many have taken the ungodly Liberty of plundering, pillaging, and break-
 “ ing into Houses, to the Ruin and Detriment of whole Families, not regard-
 “ ing the Poor, the Widow, and the Fatherless, beyond all Precedent or
 Excuse,

LONDON,

1671.



“ Excuse, and that we are informed it is your Purpose, instead of relaxing
 “ your Hand, to supply the Defects of that Act by such explanatory Clauses,
 “ as will inevitably expose us to the Fury and Interest of our several Adver-
 “ saries, that under Pretence of answering the Intents of the said Act, will
 “ only gratify their private Humours, and doubtless extend it beyond its
 “ original Purpose, to the utter Destruction of us and our suffering Friends.
 “ We therefore esteem our selves obliged in Christian Duty to remonstrate,
 “ *First*, That we own Civil Government or Magistracy, as God’s Ordinance
 “ for the Punishment of evil Doers, and the Praise of them that do well,
 “ and though we cannot comply with those Laws that prohibit us to worship
 “ God according to our Consciences, as believing it to be his alone Preroga-
 “ tive to preside in Matters of Truth and Worship, yet we both own, and
 “ are ready to yield Obedience to every Ordinance of Man relating to human
 “ Affairs, and that for Conscience-sake.
 “ *Secondly*, That we deny and renounce, as an horrible Impiety, all Plots
 “ and Conspiracies, or to promote our Interest or Religion by the Blood of
 “ such as dissent from us, or yet those that persecute us.
 “ *Thirdly*, That in all Revolutions we have demeaned our selves with much
 “ Peace and Patience (disowning all contrary Actings) notwithstanding the
 “ numerous Provocations of cruel and ungodly Men, which is a Demonstra-
 “ tion of our harmless Behaviour, that ought not to be of little Moment with
 “ you.
 “ *Fourthly*, That as we have ever lived most peaceably under all the various
 “ Forms of Government that have been since our first Appearance, (notwithstand-
 “ ing we have been as their Anvil to smite upon) so we do hereby signify, that it
 “ is our full Resolution to continue the same, that where we cannot actually
 “ obey, we patiently shall suffer, (leaving our innocent Cause with God, not
 “ daring to love our Lives unto the Death, for our blessed Testimony’s Sake)
 “ thereby manifesting to the whole World, that we love God above all, and
 “ our Neighbours as our selves.
 “ If this prevail not with you to suspend your Thoughts of reinforcing your
 “ Act, we do desire, that we, or some of our Friends, may receive a free
 “ Hearing from you, (as several of us had upon the first Act for Uniformity)
 “ having many great and weighty Reasons to offer against all such severe Pro-
 “ ceedings, to the End all wrong Measures, of us and our Principles, may
 “ be rectified, and that you being better inform’d of both, may remove our
 “ heavy Burdens, and let the Oppressed go free, for such Moderation will be
 “ well-pleasing both to God and good Men.

“ From us, who are now Prisoners at *Newgate*, for Conscience-sake,
 “ on the Behalf of our selves, and all our suffering Friends, in
 “ *England, &c.*

Newgate, Second
 Month, 1671.

“ WILLIAM PENN, and several Others.”

About the Month called *August* this Year, the violent Proceedings against the Meetings of this People began to abate, their Persecutors being tired, and having proved their Patience and Constancy to be invincible, became more moderate; And, toward the End of this Year, the King, and his Council, thought proper to take other Measures, and thereupon a *Declaration*, for suspending the Execution of the penal Laws in Matters Ecclesiastical, was published, and the Prosecution of Dissenters, for their religious Meetings, ceased for a Time, so that

Some Respite
 from Persecu-
 tion.

ANNO 1672. The Assemblies of this People, in and about the City, were generally held undisturbed. It was also ordered, by the King and Council,
 “ That a List of the Names of the *Quakers*, in the several Prisons, should be
 “ sent to the Attorney-General, who was required to prepare a Bill for the
 “ King’s Royal Signature, containing a Pardon, to pass the Great-Seal of
 “ *England*,

“ *England*, for all such of them to whom the King might legally grant the “ *same*.” Accordingly the said Pardon was granted, bearing Date the 13th of September this Year; by which were discharged at *London*,

From *NEWGATE*: *Edward Pattison, John Ellis, Arthur Cooke, and Richard Cannon.*

From the *FLEET*: *William Adams, Robert Hart, John Bolt, and William Welch.*

From the *KING'S BENCH*: *John Griffith, Jonathan Jennings, John Alway, Abraham Dickson, Matthew Perrin, Thomas Naylor, William Gibson, Theophilus Green, John Wrenn, Thomas Paul, Francis Cooley, Richard Cocke, Richard Guy, John Smith, Joshua Sparrow, John Maddocks, George Tipping, Henry Forty, Samuel Hart, Joseph Fielder, and Robert Hodgson.*

There were also, at that Time, in the *Fleet Prison*, for not paying Tithes, and other Branches of their religious Testimony, not comprehended in the King's Pardon, *James Balknett, Thomas Beech, John Bresbone, Ephraim Carter, Thomas Fuller, John Keinsley, Anne Morris, Christopher Ward, Abel Burroughs, and John Kennett.*

In the same Year, *Thomas Cox Vintner, Mary Fuller Widow, George Mayes Shoemaker, Robert East Distiller, John Baker Tobacconist, and Timothy Trigg Pipemaker*, all of *Whitechapel*, *Henry Poulton*, of *Stepney*, Cowkeeper, and *Henry Parker Dyer*, were committed to *Newgate* for Non-payment of Tithes.

About the same Time, *John Cartwright, Robert Bridges, John Selwood, Joseph Cadle, Elizabeth Baines, Robert Couchman, and Robert East*, for refusing to bear Arms, suffered Distress of their Goods to the Value of 16*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* Also *Richard Guy*, and *John Staploe*, suffered Distress of Goods on the same Account. And, for refusing to pay Church-Rates, so called, *John Vaughton*, and *Thomas Taunton*, both of *Clement's Danes*, were sent to *Newgate* by Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*. Also, *George Bave*, of *Stepney*, and *Philip Cooke*, were committed to the same Goal for Demands for *Easter-Offerings*, from the Former 18*d.* and from the Latter but 6*d.* About this Time also, *Michael Fidfall*, of *George-Yard, Westminster*, and *John Wright*, of *Martins in the Fields*, had their Windows broke, their Goods thrown into the Street, and much damaged, and their Persons grievously insulted and abused by the rude Rabble, animated thereto by Soldiers of the King's Life-Guard, for opening their Shops on the Day called *Christmas-day*, in a conscientious Opposition to the superstitious Observation of that Time.

ANNO 1673. After the Rebuilding of the City of *London*, an Act of Parliament was made, whereby the Annual Stipends of Parochial Preachers there were settled, and the Lord-Mayor, for the Time being, was authorized to grant Warrants for Distress against the Refusers of Payment; accordingly, in the Month called *July* this Year, *George Waterman*, Mayor, issued his Warrant to *Samuel Freeman*, Priest of the Parish of *Anne Aldersgate*, by which, for Claims of 4*l.* 2*s.* Goods were taken from *Richard Butcher, John Tisoe, and John Vaughton*, to the Value of 6*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* And for a Demand of 1*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* made by *Thomas White*, Priest of *Alballows the Great*, were taken, from *John Light*, twelve Pieces of Calicoe worth 2*l.* 2*s.* And by a Warrant granted in September, at the Instance of *David Barton*, Priest of *Margaret's New-Fish-street*, were taken, from *William Chandler*, and *Thomas Saxton*, for Demands of 2*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* Fish to the Value of 3*l.* 5*s.* 1½*d.* In this Year also, for refusing to bear Arms, *Edmund Caryl*, and *James Brown*, of *Giles's in the Fields*, suffered Distress of Goods to the Amount of 5*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*

ANNO 1674. *Robert Hanson*, Mayor. By Warrant, granted to the afore-said *Samuel Freeman*, Priest, for Claims of 1*l.* 3*s.* from *Richard Butcher*, and *Thomas Cobb*, their Goods were taken away to the Value of 2*l.* 6*s.* And by a like Warrant, the afore-said *David Barton*, Priest, for a Demand of 6*s.* took, from *William Chandler*, Fish worth 12*s.* Also *Thomas Neast*, Priest of

LONDON,

8cc.

1672.

Discharge of
Prisoners.Commitments
for not paying
Tithes.Distresses for
several
Cases.

Abuses.

Distresses in
the new Build-
ings at Lon-
don.Distresses in
London.

LONDON, Coleman-street, for 7s. demanded of Richard Thornton, made Distress of Goods to the Value of 23s.

1674.

More Distresses in London.

In the same Year, by Warrant from William Hooker, Mayor, Dr. Bradford, Priest of Edmund's Lombard-street, for Claims of 2l. 5s. from Thomas Rudyard, and Job Bolton, took Goods worth 3l. 15s. And in this Year also, John Hewett, Thomas Couchman, and Jeremiah Clarke, for refusing to pay towards the Charges of the Militia, had Goods taken from them to the Value of 8l. 10s.

ANNO 1675. William Hooker, Mayor. William Crouch, for 1l. 19s. demanded by John Cliff, Priest of Bennet's Grace-church, had two Pieces of Serge taken away worth 3l. 10s. Also Thomas Baker, for 14s. 4d. claimed, by Elkington Downs, Priest of Leonard's Eastcheap, suffered Distress to the Value of 1l. 17s. 10d. Richard Butcher, and Thomas Cobb, for Demands of 1l. 3s. made by Samuel Freeman, Priest of Anne Aldersgate, had Goods taken from them worth 2l. 14s. And for 1l. 16s. claimed by George May, Priest of Fen-church-street, and Dionis-Back-church, were taken from Thomas Robinson Goods worth 4l. 10s. Also for 13s. 6d. claimed by Samuel Freeman, Priest of Anne Aldersgate, from William Wigan, three Saddles were taken worth 1l. 12s. And for a Demand of 40s. made by John Archer, Priest of Alballoes Lombard-street, upon Gerard Roberts, Goods were taken from Mary Foster Widow, an Under-tenant of his, to the Value of 4l. 19s. 3d.

ANNIS 1675 and 1676. Robert Vyner, Mayor. For a Demand of 9s. 4d. made by William Sherlock, Priest of the Parish called St. George Buttolph-lane, from John Hodgkins, Goods were taken worth 1l. 9s. And for Claims, made by Dr. Bradford, of Edmund's Lombard-street, of 2l. 5s. from Thomas Rudyard, and Job Bolton, was taken to the Value of 3l. 19s. 6d. In the Year 1676, on Complaint of John Williams, Priest of the Parishes of Mary-Cole-church and Mildred in the Poultry, against the said Job Bolton, for 3l. 9s. the Mayor granted a Warrant, by which they took away his Show-Glass, (he being a Silversmith) with about 150l. worth of Goods in it. This being represented to the Mayor, he ordered the Glass to be opened in his Presence, and Goods to be taken out, the Value of which Bolton knew not, and then returned the Glass open by his Officers. From Thomas Baker, of Eastcheap, for 14s. 4d. demanded by the Priest, was taken to the Value of 1l. 0s. 3d. And by Warrants granted to John Stoning, Priest of Black-Friars, for Claims of 1l. 11s. 2d. were taken from Simon Marshall, Thomas Hooton, Mark Materham, William Tileby, John Vaughton, Henry Doggett, and William Walker, several Sorts of Goods to the Value of 6l. 18s. 9d. From Thomas Witchel, for a Claim of 11s. 1d. made by Thomas Neast, Vicar of Stephen's Coleman-street, were taken Goods worth 1l. 13s. And from Job Bolton, for 1l. 17s. 6d. demanded by Dr. Bradford, of Edmund's Lombard-street, Goods worth 2l. 7s. 7d. Also upon Complaint of Edward Sherun, Priest of Foster-lane, for a Demand of 10s. were taken from Robert Powel, Goods worth 13s. 10d. And from Richard Butcher, for 15s. claimed by Samuel Freeman, Priest, Goods worth 1l. 4s. And from Thomas Cobb, for a Claim of 8s. to the Value of 15s. 4d. Also by Warrant, granted on Complaint of John Archer, Priest of Alballoes Lombard-street, for Demands of 6l. 19s. 2d. Goods were taken away from John Osgood and Joseph Scott, to the Value of 10l. 3s. 7d.

ANNIS 1676 and 1677. Joseph Sheldon, Mayor. By this Mayor's Warrants, granted upon Application of the Priests of their respective Parishes, were taken

From Simon Marshall, John Vaughton, William Walker,	1	5	d.
and Richard Aldsworth, of Anne's Blackfriars,	2	11	8
for Demands of 18s. 8d. Goods worth			
Thomas Robinson and William Gibson, of Fen-	2	14	0
church-street, for Demands of 1l. 5s. 6d.			
Goods worth			

Carried over 5 5 8

	L.	s.	d.
Brought over	5	5	8
From Thomas Harding, of Friday-street, for Demands of 2l. 2s. 6d. Goods worth	3	0	5
Thomas Rudyard, of Lombard-street, for Demands of 3l. 7s. 6d. Goods worth	7	12	6
John Bolton, of Aldersgate Parish, for Demands of 7l. Goods worth	10	0	0
Christopher Cheesman, of Ludgate Parish, for Demands of 7s. Goods worth	1	11	0
Philip Ford, of Mary Le Bow, for Demands of 2l. 4s. 2d. Goods worth	5	7	6
Richard Halls, of St. Mary-Hill, for Demands of 1l. 8s. Goods worth	2	16	0
Francis Moore, of the same, for Demands of 1l. 10s. Goods worth	9	5	4
Gerard Roberts, of Lombard-street, for Demands of 13s. 4d. Goods worth	2	5	0
Thomas Cobb, of Ann's, Aldersgate Parish, for Demands of 8s. Goods worth	0	18	10
Richard Hawkes, William Titeby, Henry Doggett, Simon Marshall, and John Vaughton, of Blackfriars, for Demands of 1l. 12s. 3d. Goods worth	4	5	0
Richard Butcher, of Aldersgate Parish, for Demands of 14s. 10d. Goods worth	1	10	0
Elizabeth Scott, of Lombard-street, for Demands of 10s. Goods worth	1	12	0
For 23l. 11s. 9d.	55	9	3
Taken			

LONDON,
1676 and
1677.

John Osgood, of Lombard-street, had all his Goods seized, by Distress, for only one Year's Tithe.

From Walter Hoare, of Mary Woolnoth in Lombard-street, for 2l. 16s. demanded, were taken Goods worth 3l. 14s. And from Samuel Bolton, for a Claim of 2l. 6s. made by John Williams, Priest of the Parishes of Mary-Cole-church, and Mildred-Back-church, were Goods taken to the Value of 3l. 5s.

ANNIS 1677 and 1678. Francis Chaplin, Mayor. By Warrants, granted to the Incumbents of their respective Parishes, were taken

From John Day, of Nicholas-Gole-Abbey, for Demands of 1l. Goods worth	2	1	11
Thomas Rudyard, of Lombard-street, for Demands of 1l. 10s. Goods worth	1	17	0
William Crouch, of Grace-church-street, for Demands of 5l. 17s. Goods worth	9	7	10
Thomas Mardin, of Crooked-lane, for Demands of 1l. 13s. 9d. Goods worth	4	10	0
John Hubbock and Matthew Roper, of Grace-church-street, for Demands of 2l. 16s. 3d. Goods worth	7	18	5
James Smith, of Dionis Back-church, for Demands of 1l. 5s. Goods worth	3	4	2
Thomas Robinson, of the same, for Demands of 5s. 4d. Goods worth	2	14	0
For 14l. 7s. 4d.	31	13	4
Taken			

From

LONDON,

&c.

1677 and
1678.

From *Richard Butcher, Thomas Cobb, and John Tysoe, of Ann's, Aldersgate Parish,* for Demands of 2*l.* were Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 5*l.*

	l.	s.	d.
And from <i>Samuel Streater, of Broad-street,</i> for Demands of 19 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> Goods worth	1	10	0
<i>John Newton, of Martin's Orgars,</i> for Demands of 16 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i> Goods worth	1	14	0
<i>Francis Moore, of Mary-bill,</i> for Demands of 1 <i>l.</i> Goods worth	1	11	4
<i>Jasper Robins, of Dunstan's in the West,</i> for Demands of 1 <i>l.</i> 16 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i> Goods worth	3	3	6
<i>Job Bolton, of Lombard-street,</i> for Demands of 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> Goods worth	1	13	8

For 6*l.* 3*s.*

Taken 9 12 6

Death of
R. Ashfield.

An Account of
him written
by his Wife.

In the Year 1677 died in *Newgate, Richard Ashfield,* of *Stanes* in the County of *Middlesex,* concerning whom the following Account, penn'd by his Widow *Patience Ashfield,* is worthy the Attention of the Reader, viz.

“ After my dear Husband *Richard Ashfield* was convinced of the blessed Truth, as it is in Jesus, he was often prosecuted, by Excommunications and Sessions Procefs, for Non-conformity to the Church of England; and in Obedience to the Command of Christ, refusing to take the Oaths, was several Times imprisoned, particularly in the Year 1665 he suffered a Year's Imprisonment on that Account; but he keeping faithful, the Lord found a Way graciously to deliver him. In the Year 1676 he was again excommunicated for Non-conformity to the Church of England, and refusing to pay for the Repair of the Steeple-house, Font, Surplice, and other such like Things, the Charge of his own and others Presentment on that Account. By the vehement Intigation of *Edward Kempshall* a Writ of *Capias* was served on him, and he carried to *Newgate* in the Eleventh Month 1676, to the great Grief and Trouble of many honest People, who wept when they took their Leaves of him, it being then a very cold Season, and he aged about fixty five Years, and much troubled with a Cough and *Ptisick,* The Closeness and Dampness of the Place did much increase his Distemper, and to use his own Words on his dying Bed, was the Occasion of shortning his Days. On the 11th of the Tenth Month 1677, he laid down his Head, and resigned his Soul and Spirit, in perfect Peace and Joy of the Lord, into the Hands of his faithful Creator.”

After his Death, his said Widow, continuing stedfast in the Faith, was enabled also to suffer for her Constancy in attending religious Meetings, of which she also left an Account in the following Words, viz.

“ *William Field,* Constable, came to my House at *Stanes,* the Doors being shut, he demanded Entrance, which being denied, he fetched an Iron Crow, and attempted to break open the Street-door, but that being too strong for him, having no Body to help him, he at last remember'd a Back-door not so strong, which he breaking, and coming in, neither making any Demand of the Money, nor letting me see the Warrants, presently fell upon my Goods, laying them in Bundles to carry away. I being very weak, and upon my Bed, at length gained Strength to rise and go to him, and demanded of him, By what Warrant he so seized my Goods? He said, for 20*l.* I desired to see the Warrants, which he refused, nor would let any of my Family read them, which he could not do himself. At last I prevailed with him to let a Neighbour read Part of one of them, being for 10*l.* laid on me for two Meetings at *Longford,* and for an unknown Preacher, signed by *Peter Sabbs* only, whereby to break open the Doors. The Value of the Goods, measured, taken from me, came to 26*l.* or 28*l.*”

Thus

Thus the conscientious Widow patiently endured the Spoiling of her Goods for the same religious Testimony for which her Husband had before cheerfully suffered the Loss both of his Liberty and Life.

Some Time before these Occurrences, one *Ruth Shelley* was sent to Prison by Order of the Prerogative Court, for refusing to take an Oath in relation to the proving a Will there. Also *Jeremiah Clark*, for refusing to take an Oath when cited into the Consistory Court of *Peter's, Westminster*, was committed to Newgate by a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo*. Likewise *John Fly*, a Distiller of *Ratcliff*, was committed to New-Prison for refusing to take the Oath of a Jurymen at *Hicks's-ball*. Also *Richard Worgan*, refusing to Swear when cited on a Jury at *Whitechapel-Court*, was fined, and had his Goods distrained to the Value of 20s.

About this Time an Attempt was made to prevent the said People from interring the dead Bodies of their Friends after their own Manner, for which Purpose they had a Piece of Ground near *Bunhill-Fields*, at which one *Richard Carter* usually officiated as Gravemaker: Against him, at a Sessions at *Hicks's-ball*, the following Presentment was laid, viz.

LONDON,
&c.
1677 and
1678.

Imprisonments
for refusing to
Swear.

An Attempt
to prevent
interring the
Dead.

“**M**EMORANDUM, That at the Sessions of our Lord the King, held for the County of *Middlesex*, and at *Hicks's-ball* in *St. John's-street*, in the County aforesaid, on *Wednesday*, that is to say, the 11th Day of *July*, in the Year of the Reign of our Lord *Charles the Second* over *England*, &c. the 29th, before *Charles Lee*, Knt. *William Bowles*, Knt. *John Phelps*, one of the Auditors of the *Exchequer* of our said Lord the King, and other Justices of our said Lord the King, by Letters Patent to them, or any four of them, under the Seal of *England*, made to enquire, upon the Oath of good and lawful Men of the said County, as well within the Liberty as without, of Treacheries, Treasons, Misprisions, Insurrections, &c. according to the Law and Custom of *England* appointed to hear and determine. By the Oaths of *Hugh Owen*, *Walter Searl*, *David Waine*, *Peter Jackson*, *Henry Lloyd*, *John Cart*, *David Tucker*, *Ezekiel Taylor*, *Valentine Everard*, *William Edwards*, *Samuel Granger*, *William Collett*, *Henry Prenty*, *William Leek*, and *John Ogleby*, good and lawful Men of the said County, sworn, and charged to enquire for our said Lord the King and Body of the said County, there was presented, in Manner and Form following, that is to say,

Presentment
at Sessions.

“*Middlesex* fs.

“**T**HE Jurors, for our Lord the King, upon their Oaths present; That whereas by the Laws, Customs, good Rule, and Government, of our said Lord the King and his Predecessors, used hitherto and approved by the same, that the dead Bodies of every Person inhabiting within this Kingdom of *England*, not being *Felo de se* at the Time of his Death, or incapable of Christian Burial, it was used or accustomed openly and publickly to be buried in the Church or Church-yard of some Parish-Church or Chapel usual, or in some other Place or Ground by lawful Authority constituted, appointed and licensed, or permitted for the burying of dead Bodies of all Persons not incapable of Christian Burial to be buried there; and that *Mary Knight*, late of the Parish of *St. Leonard, Shoreditch*, in the County of *Middlesex* aforesaid, Spinster, otherwise called *Mary Knight*, Wife of *George Knight*, of the same Place, Yeoman, the 28th Day of *June*, in the Year of our Lord *Charles the Second* over *England*, &c. the 29th, and being long before residing and inhabiting within the Parish of *St. Leonard, Shoreditch* in the said County, afterwards, that is to say, the 28th Day of *June*, in the 29th Year as aforesaid, in the said Parish, naturally, and by the Visitation of God, died; and that not being a *Felo de se*, nor incapable of Christian Burial. And that although there was then, and still is a Place usual within the said Parish, by lawful Authority constituted and appointed for the

LONDON,
 &c.
 1677 and
 1678.

burying of dead Bodies of all dying within the said Parish, wherein the
 said dead Body of the said *Mary Knight* could conveniently be buried:
 Notwithstanding one *Richard Carter*, late of the Parish of *St. Giles's* without
Cripplegate, in *Middlesex* aforesaid, not ignorant of the Premises, but being
 a Person ill affected toward the Authority of our Lord the King as afore-
 said, and contriving and intending the Laws and ancient Customs, and good
 Rule, and Government, of our Lord the King as aforesaid, to violate and
 pervert, and the Authority of our said Lord the King, in that Behalf, to dimi-
 nish and extinguish, afterwards, that is to say, the 29th Day of the said Month of
June, in the 29th Year aforesaid, by Force and Arms at the Parish of *St.*
Giles's, *Cripplegate*, aforesaid, in the County aforesaid, in a certain unusual
 and unlawful Place there, commonly called the *Quakers* Burying-ground,
 lying and being in the Parish of *St. Giles's*, without *Cripplegate*, aforesaid,
 being not then, nor as yet, a Church or Church-yard of the Parochial Church
 of *St. Giles's*, without *Cripplegate*, aforesaid, nor a Church or Church yard
 of a Parish Church, of any other Church or Chapel, or any usual Place
 or Ground by any lawful Authority constituted, appointed, or licensed, or
 permitted, for the burying of dead Bodies of any Persons there to be buried,
 the dead Body of the said *Mary Knight* then and there unlawfully and un-
 justly buried. And that the said *Richard Carter*, the dead Bodies of very
 many other Persons, at least one Hundred dead Bodies of certain Persons,
 lately inhabiting within the Parish of *St. Leonard*, *Shoreditch*, within the
 County aforesaid, and elsewhere in the said County, the Names whereof the
 said Jurors are ignorant of, who at the Times of their Death, naturally, and
 through the Visitation of God, died lately, not being Felons, nor any of
 them being a Felon of himself, or incapable of Christian Burial, before the
 said 29th Day of *June*, in the 29th Year aforesaid, by Force and Arms, in
 the Parish of *St. Giles's*, without *Cripplegate*, in the said County, in an unusual
 and unlawful Place commonly called the *Quakers* Burying-ground, lying
 and being in the Parish of *St. Giles's*, without *Cripplegate*, aforesaid, unlaw-
 fully and unjustly hath buried in the said Place, being not then, nor as yet,
 nor at any Time, the Parish-Church of *St. Giles's*, without *Cripplegate*, afore-
 said, or the Church-yard of the said Parish-Church, or any Church, or
 Church-yard of any other Church or Chapel, or usual Place or Ground by
 any lawful Authority constituted, appointed, licensed, or permitted for Burial
 of any dead Bodies of any Person there to be buried, against the Laws and
 ancient Custom aforesaid of this Kingdom of *England*, and the good Rule
 and Government of our said Lord the King aforesaid, to the manifest Con-
 tempt of the Authority of our said Lord the King, to the ill Example of
 others in the like Case transgressing, and against the Peace of our said Lord
 the King, that now is, his Crown and Dignity."

Remarks on
 that Present-
 ment.

This Presentment shews, that a persecuting Disposition was so prevalent at this Time, that it extended not only to the grievous Molestation of this People while living, but would have prevented their being buried among their Friends and Relations when dead: An Attempt equally unchristian and inhuman, which, though it issued only in some present Trouble and Charge to the poor Gravemaker, plainly discovers to what a Pitch of Malice and Mischief the blind and furious Zeal of superstitious Ignorance can hurry Men.

Perjured In-
 formers ab-
 scond.

On the 13th of the Month called *January* 1677, *John Pye*, *Hugh Lamb*, *Daniel Duke*, *James Beech*, and *John Spence*, were indicted for being at a Meeting in *Westminster*, and convicted by the Oaths of *John Goodwin* and *Scarlet Rose*, Informers: But, upon a Re-hearing, they proved, by substantial Evidence, that they were at distant Places at the Time the Meeting, for which they had been convicted, was held, and the Informers manifestly appeared to be perjured, and the Justices granted an Order for apprehending them, for Fear of which they absconded or fled.

In

In the next Year *John Field*, of the Parish of *Anne and Agnes Aldersgate*, was prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for teaching School without a License from the Bishop, and because after Admonition he desisted not, was for his Contumacy committed to *Ludgate Prison* on the 19th of *December 1678*, where he was close confined twenty nine Weeks: And though sick, could not obtain Leave either to go Home, or to a Friend's House near the Prison, for the Recovery of his Health: The Severity of Ecclesiastical Censure not admitting any such Mixture of Mercy.

About the same Time *William Warren*, of *Shadwell*, Grocer, was committed to *New-Prison* by Justice *Rycroft*, for opening his Shop on a Fast-day, and was there close confined about three Weeks. Several others suffered Distress of Goods for refusing to pay to the Charges of the *Militia*, viz. *Philip Ford*, who for a Fine of 4*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* had his Goods taken away to the Value of 24*l.* 2*s.* And *Thomas Wüchel*, who for 40*s.* Fine, suffered by Distress to the Value of 3*l.* 13*s.* Also *Thomas Lacey*, of *Martin's-lane*, who being fined 4*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* had Tobacco taken from him worth 6*l.* 17*s.* For the same Cause *Thomas Cobb*, of *Martin's-le-Grand*, had Goods taken away to the Value of 4*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* 3*d.* And *William Ellis*, into whose House the Officers coming when his Doors were shut, made a forcible Entrance by breaking an Hatch, and opening the Door with a Sledge, had Pewter taken away worth 4*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

ANNIS 1678 and 1679. *James Edwards*, Mayor. By this Mayor's Warrant were taken for the Maintenance of the Parochial Priests in *London*,

From <i>William Chandler</i> , of <i>New-Fish-street</i> , for 2 <i>l.</i> 17 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>	4	5	0
Goods worth			
<i>William Gibson</i> , of <i>Edmund's Lombard-street</i> , for 12 <i>s.</i>	0	15	0
Goods worth			
<i>Thomas Paxton</i> , of <i>New-Fish-street</i> , for 4 <i>l.</i> 0 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>	5	14	0
Goods worth			
<i>Josiah Bacon</i> , of <i>Switbins</i> , for 3 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>s.</i> Goods worth	4	1	0
<i>George Bradford</i> , of the same, for 1 <i>l.</i> 7 <i>s.</i> Goods worth	1	18	0
<i>Daniel Quare</i> , of <i>Aldersgate Parish</i> , for 2 <i>l.</i> 12 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	5	0	0
Goods worth			
<i>David Lloyd</i> , for 1 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> Goods worth	3	8	0
<i>Thomas West</i> , for 10 <i>s.</i> Goods worth	1	13	9
<i>John Day</i> , of <i>Nicholas-Cole-Abbey</i> , for 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	4	7	10
Goods worth			
For 18 <i>l.</i> 0 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i>	Taken	31	2 7

From *Samuel Streater*, of *Alballow's Bread-street*, were taken Goods worth 2*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* And from *Thomas Hooton*, *Simon Marshall*, *William Walker*, *Henry Dagget*, and *William Tileby*, for Demands of 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* were taken several Sorts of Goods to the Value of 6*l.* 18*d.* 7*d.* for the Use of the Priest of *Black-friars*. Also from *John Beckley*, of *Aldersgate Parish*, for a Demand of 20*s.* were taken Goods worth 1*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* And from *John Aires*, of the same Parish, for 2*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* Goods worth 6*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* From *Elizabeth Kemboll*, *William Ellis*, and *Thomas Lacey*, of *Laurence Pountney*, for Demands of 4*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* were taken to the Value of 8*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* And from *Philip Ford*, of *Mary-le-Bow*, for a Claim of 1*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.* Goods worth 5*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*

ANNO 1679. An Account of the Sufferings in the new Buildings *London*, before that Time, was printed, shewing that for Demands of 116*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* there had been taken by Distresses 427*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* of which had been returned to the Owners 181*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* So that the Loss borne by the Sufferers over and above the Priest's Demands was 129*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*

In a Postscript to that Account, it is observed, that "The customary Manner of the Priests was, when they have a Warrant for Distress, they or their Agents take and carry away, out of our Houses, Goods and Wares, two, three,

LONDON,

&c.

1677 and 1678.

Imprisonment of J. Field in Ludgate.

Commitment of W. Warren to New-Prison.

Distresses in London.

A Postscript to an Account of Sufferings.

LONDON,
&c.
1679.

“ three, four, five, six, and sometimes ten Times the Value of the Money
“ demanded, and this without making any Appraisment before they carry
“ them thence, contrary to the Use and Custom of all legal Execu-
“ tions and Distresses whatsoever. And the Constable, who is assistant, not
“ one of the Parish Precinct, or Ward, but commonly some unknown
“ foreign Deputy-Constable. The Goods are generally carried into some
“ Alehouse, or such like Place, and there have been appraised at Half or a
“ third Part of the Value. Sometimes they return their Overplus, but with
“ Deductions of Charges equal to a Trial in *Guild-hall*; and very often
“ neither make Restoration of Overplus, nor give Account to the Party how
“ they have appraised or disposed of his Goods.

“ ’Twas therefore proposed to the Magistrates, as Matter of Equity and
“ equal Justice, that when Warrants of Distress were granted, a Clause might
“ be inserted, or Caution and Direction given,

“ 1. That the Priest, or his Collector, have with him, when he makes Dis-
“ tress, one of the Parish, Precinct, or at least Ward-Constables, where the
“ distressed Party inhabits.

“ 2. That the Goods distrained be not taken out of the House or Shop
“ before Appraisment made, as is usual in all other Cases.

“ 3. That an Account of the Goods, Charges, Expences, to whom, and
“ for what paid, be rendred to the Party distrained within ten Days after
“ Distress.

“ So that as the Law has made a plenary Provision for their pretended
“ Right, the Magistrate may have an equal Regard, that no one be oppressed
“ under Colour of Law beyond the Intent of the Law.”

The said Postscript concludes thus, “ Yet notwithstanding, in case the
“ Spoilers are suffered to spoil without Limitation or Controul, we are (and
“ do hope shall be) content, and trust, that in the Power and Strength of the
“ Most High, we shall be enabled patiently to suffer whatever may or can
“ be our Portion as to this Matter, leaving it at their Door who have Power
“ to relieve us in this Case, and yet do not, and commit our Cause to him that
“ will judge righteously without Respect of Persons.”

In this Year also were taken for Fines imposed for refusing to defray the
Charges of the *Militia*,

Distresses for
the Militia,

	l.	s.	d.
From Daniel Quare, two Clocks and two Watches worth	11	5	0
Thomas West, Goods worth	14	4	9
John Dew, of Paul's, Joyner, to the Value of	13	2	6
Samuel Atlee, Pewter worth	13	10	0
Joseph Wilkinson, of Silver-street, Looking-glasses worth	7	2	6
Thomas Lacey, Tobacco worth	24	4	11
	83	9	8

and for Tro-
phy Money.

Taken also for Claims of Trophy Money,			
From Samuel Atlee, of Bread-street, Pewter worth	0	3	0
John Light, of Dowgate, Pewter worth	0	2	4
Henry Doggett, Goods worth	0	4	6

Imprisonments
for opening
Shops on the
30th of the
Month called
January.

By Warrant from the Bench of Justices, sitting at *Mile-end-Green* on the 6th
of the Month called *February* 1679, the Constables of *Ratcliff* brought before
them *Edward Hoare*, *Robert Winne*, *John Triver*, *John Constantine*, *Thomas*
Seatergood, and *Benjamin Rutland*, whom they sent to *Clerkenwell* Prison as
Offenders for opening their Shops on the 30th of the Month called *January*,
contrary to an *Act of Parliament* made for the Observation of that Day. They
were detained in Prison till the next *Quarter Sessions* at *Hick's-hall*, and then
discharged.

ANNO

ANNO 1680. Taken by Distress for Priests Maintenance in the new LONDON, Buildings of London, &c. 1680.

	Demand	Goods worth
From William Braine, for	0 5 0	0 8 0
Francis Tracey,	0 4 0	0 8 0
Richard Worgan,	0 5 0	0 10 0
George Bradford,	0 16 0	0 5 0
John Olgood,	1 13 4	1 14 8
Richard Whitpainé,	1 7 6	1 17 10
John Beckly,	0 7 0	0 10 7
Richard Townsend,	0 15 0	1 5 0
William Crouch,	3 18 0	4 14 0
William Baker,	1 2 6	1 11 8
John Tysoe,	2 16 10	5 15 0

Distresses in London.

For 13 10 2 Taken 23 15 3

Taken also from Daniel Quare, for a Demand of 3 s. 6 d. for Trophy Money, a Watch-Cafe worth 9 s. 5 d.

In Trinity-Term this Year, Sir Hugh Windham, one of the Justices of the Common Pleas, brought into that Court at Westminster several Informations in the Name of Thomas Moore, as Informer, against Thomas Farmborough, of London, Chair-maker, Henry Waddy, John Edge of St. Andrews, Holborne, in the County of Middlesex, and John Jones of St. Andrews Holborne, Glover, for 260l. each of them, alledged to be forfeited for their not coming to hear Common-prayer for thirteen Months next preceding the Information, on the Statute of 23d Eliz. made against Popish Recufants. The like Information, for the like Sum, and for the same Cause, was exhibited by the said Sir Hugh Windham, in the Name of Thomas Awton as Informer, against James Beech Sen. of Margarets Westminster; and another against William Beech, of the same Parish; another also against James Beech Jun. of the same; and likewise against Musgrove Beeby, of the Strand, Vintner, upon the same Statute; though all these Persons were well known to be Protestants, and no Popish Recufants, nor Popishly affected. On these Informations, and other Prosecutions of this People, the following State of their Case was published, and presented to the King and Parliament, viz.

Informations on the Statute of 201. per Month for not bearing Common-Prayer.

" The CASE of the People called QUAKERS, in Relation to the
" Statutes upon which they are prosecuted, shewing the Intent and
" Meaning thereof.

" THEIR Complaint is against the late Prosecutions in the Exchequer
" for two Thirds of their Estates, which for two Years last past have
" been seized into the King's Hands upon old Statutes made against Popish
" Recufants; and Levies daily made thereupon by the Sheriffs throughout
" many Counties in England; and the Unreasonableness of such Prosecutions
" will appear,
" 1st. In shewing, the Statutes, upon which the Persons are prosecuted, were
" designed against Popery and Popish Recufants only, however now extended
" against us and other Protestant Dissenters.
" To which is added, a Test or Protest, to distinguish us from Popish
" Recufants.
" First. The Statutes upon which we, and other Protestant Dissenters, are
" of late convicted, and returned into the Exchequer, and two Thirds of their
" Estates seized into the King's Hands, and levied by Distress, are three, viz.
" 23d and 28th of Q. Eliz. and 3d of K. James.
" As to that of 23d Eliz. it's intituled, An Act to maintain the Queen's
" Majesty's Subjects in their due Obedience. And what Subjects they were who

Case of the People called Quakers.

LONDON,

1680.



in those Days were disobedient, and stood in Need of this Act, History and Tradition can well inform: And besides this, the very Preamble to the Act will plainly evidence, which runs thus,

Where sheweth the Statute made in the 13th Year of the Reign of the Queen our Sovereign Lady, intituled, An Act against the bringing and putting in Execution of Bulls, Writings, and Instruments, and other superstitious Things from the See of Rome, diverse evil affected Persons have practised contrary to the Meaning of the said Statute, by other Means than by Bulls or Instruments written or printed, to withdraw the Queen's Majesty's Subjects from their natural Obedience to her Majesty, to obey the said usurped Authority of Rome, and in Respect of the same, to persuade great Numbers to withdraw their due Obedience from her Majesty's Laws, &c. For Reformation whereof, and to declare the true Meaning of the said Law, be it declared and enacted by the Authority of this present Parliament, that all Persons, &c.

By these Words, for the Reformation whereof, and to declare the true Meaning of the said Law, we may observe two Things, or a double End for which this Statute was made and provided.

1st. For Reformation of such who withdrew the Queen's Subjects from their Obedience to the usurped Authority of the See of Rome, as the preceding Words are.

2dly. To declare the true Meaning of the said Law of the 13th of the Queen, which the said Statute recites, which said Law was provided against the Bringing in Bulls, Writings, Instruments, and other superstitious Things from the See of Rome.

And if we read the said Statute, it gives Account that those Bulls were brought from Rome to absolve and reconcile such who forsook their Obedience, to yield and subject themselves to the Pope's usurped Authority.

So the Design of the said Statute was to prohibit such Bulls on Pain of High-Treason, and to prohibit bringing into the Realm Tokens or Things called *Agnus Dei*, Pictures, Beads, and such like vain and superstitious Things, which being consecrated by the Pope, &c. divers Immunities and Exemptions were said to be granted.

So that this Statute of 23d Eliz. appears to be a supplemental Act, and explanatory of the 13th of the said Queen, against the bringing in of Bulls, *Agnus Dei*, Crosses, &c. and therein also provides against withdrawing any of the Queen's Subjects to the *Romish* Religion, which the Act conceived so dangerous.

So that they, first, make it *Treason* to withdraw any from the Queen's Obedience, or Religion then established, to the *Romish* Religion, or to obey the Authority of the See of Rome, or any other Prince.

They, secondly, make it *Treason* to be reconciled or drawn to the *Romish* Religion.

They, thirdly, make it *Misprision of Treason* to be Aiders, Maintainers, or Counsellors of such as persuade others to withdraw themselves.

And, fourthly, they provide the Penalty of two Hundred Marks, and a Year's Imprisonment, for such as shall say or sing Mass, and then enact generally,

That all Persons, above the Age of sixteen Years, who shall not repair to Church once a Month, shall forfeit for every Month twenty Pounds. Upon which is the present Prosecution against us.

Now it is very evident by the Statute of the 13th of the Queen, and by this of the 23d of the Queen, that,

First. The Offences provided against by these Statutes were the bringing in of Bulls, *Agnus Dei*, Crosses, Pictures, Beads, and such like.

Secondly. The Persons offending were the Importers or Spreaders thereof.

Thirdly. Persons persuading, or withdrawing others, or themselves, to the *Romish* Religion or See of Rome.

And, Fourthly. Sayers or Singers of Mass, and Aiders or Maintainers of such.

So

“ So we conceive the Execution thereof was never intended, and hope (by LONDON,
 “ such Provision as the King and Parliament shall see meet) will not be ex- 1680.
 “ tended to *Protestant Dissenters*. &c.

“ And that these Words, *All Persons*, shall be such only whom the Statute
 “ in exprefs Words and Terms complains of as dangerous, and by such Pains
 “ and Penalties thereby intended to be reformed.

“ As for the Statute of the * 28th of the Queen, being the second Statute
 “ upon which we are prosecuted, the Title bespeaks what it is, viz. *An Act*
 “ *for the more speedy Execution of certain Branches made in the 23d Year of*
 “ *the Queen*; which is *An Act to retain the Queen's Majesty's Subjects in their*
 “ *due Obedience*. The same which is before repeated, and provides against the
 “ fraudulent Conveyances which might be made to defraud the Queen of the
 “ 20*l.* *per Menssem*, and orders the Convictions to be returned into the *Ex-*
 “ *chequer*, and Process to be made from thence to collect it, or for Non-
 “ payment, two Thirds of their real Estate to be seized into the Queen's
 “ Hands, &c.

“ So that until the 3d of King James (a Time memorable to all *Protestants*
 “ for the great Deliverance from the Gunpowder-plot) the former Laws conti-
 “ nued without Alteration or Supplement: And in the 3d of that King's
 “ Reign was made a Statute, intituled, *An Act for the better discovering and*
 “ *suppressing of Popish Recusants*.

“ By the whole Series of which Statute it will appear, that *Protestant Dis-*
 “ *senters* were never intended for Prosecution by it: And we may repeat the
 “ Preamble of the Statute (which is generally counted the Key to unlock the
 “ Intent and Design of a Statute) and make some brief Observations thereon,
 “ and leave it to your Consideration. It runs thus,

“ *Forasmuch as it is found by daily Experience, that many of his Majesty's Subjects,*
 “ *that adhere in their Hearts to the Popish Religion, by the Infection drawn from*
 “ *thence, and by the wicked and devilish Counsels of Jesuits, Seminaries, and other*
 “ *like Persons dangerous to the Church and State, are so far perverted in the Point*
 “ *of their Loyalty and due Allegiance to the King's Majesty, and the Crown of*
 “ *England, as that they are ready to entertain and execute any treasonable Con-*
 “ *spiracies, as evidently appeareth by that more than barbarous and horrible At-*
 “ *tempt to have blown up with Gunpowder the King, Queen, Prince, Lords,*
 “ *and Commons, in the House of Parliament assembled, tending to the utter Sub-*
 “ *version of the whole State, lately undertaken by the Instigation of Jesuits and*
 “ *Seminaries, and in Advancement of their Religion, by their Scholars taught and*
 “ *instructed by them for that Purpose, which Attempt by the only Goodness of*
 “ *Almighty God was discovered and defeated. And whereas diverse Persons Popishly*
 “ *affected do nevertheless (the better to cover and hide their false Hearts, and*
 “ *with more Safety to attend the Opportunity to execute their mischievous Designs)*
 “ *repair sometimes to Church, to escape the Penalties of the Law in that Behalf*
 “ *provided.*

“ *For the better discovering therefore of such Persons, and their evil Affections*
 “ *to the King's Majesty, and the State of this his Realm, to the End, that*
 “ *(being known) their evil Purpose may be the better prevented, Be it enacted, &c.*
 “ *That every Popish Recusant convicted, or hereafter to be convicted, &c.*

“ Observe, There is no Mention of other than *Popish Recusants*: Not
 “ one Word of other *Dissenter* or *Recusant*.

“ And, first, in this Statute is provided, that *Popish Recusants conformed,*
 “ *or afterward to be conformed, should once a Month take the Sacrament of the*
 “ *Lord's Supper in their Parish-Church, as in Stat. 2.*

“ Secondly. It inflicts the Penalties of 20*l.* the first Year, 40*l.* the second
 “ Year, 60*l.* the third Year, for such *Popish Recusants* not receiving the Sacra-
 “ ment, as in Stat. 3.

“ Thirdly.

* So quoted in the Records, but 29 *Eliz.* 1. in the late Statute Books, which also refers to the Tenour, true Meaning, and Intent of the said Statute of 23 *Eliz.* 1. which expressly intends *Popish Recusants*.

LONDON,
&c.
1680.

" *Thirdly.* It enacts, that the Church-wardens and Constables of every Town,
" &c. for the Time being, or if none, the Chief Constables of the Hundred, &c.
" shall present the Names of all Popish Recusants, and the Children of the said
" Recusants, as in Stat. 4.

" Observe, there is no Mention made of Protestant Dissenters or Re-
" cusants in general, or any other than Popish Recusants. But still
" the Statute all along refers to Popish Recusants only.

" *Fourthly.* The Statute of 3d James recites the aforesaid Statute
" of 23d Eliz. by which the said Recusants forfeit 20l. per Menssem, as in
" Stat. 10.

" *Fifthly.* And also recites the aforesaid Statute of 28th Eliz. directing
" how the Queen should recover the 20l. per Menssem by seizing of two Thirds
" of the real Estates of such convicted Recusants.

" After which Recital it is therein alledged, that 20l. per Menssem is a
" Burden to the Poor, and an Ease to the Rich who keep large Estates in their
" own Hands, which (as says the Statute) they do for the most Part employ,
" (as Experience hath taught) to the Maintenance of Superstition and Popish
" Religion, and to the Relief of Jesuits, Seminaries, and other dangerous Persons
" to the State.

" And observe, that after the Delineation or Explanation of Offenders
" and Offences, it is thereby enacted,

" That the King may refuse the 20l. per Menssem, although tendred, and take
" and seize into his Hands two Thirds of the said Recusants real Estate, &c. to
" hold during the Recusant's Life.

" This is the third Statute by which we, and other Protestant Dis-
" senters, are prosecuted.

" By all which, we hope, it clearly appears, that these Statutes were intended
" against Popish Recusants only, and not against Protestant Dissenters, nor any
" other than Popish; and hope, that the Prosecution of Protestant Dissenters
" (as they have been of late) is an extending the Sense of those Statutes beyond
" right Reason, and the Intent of the Law-makers: All which is submitted
" to your Considerations.

" And our next Business is to prove, that such Convictions, Seizures, and
" Levies, have been made upon our Estates, which will be made out by the
" Exchequer Records, which we have here ready.

" Then, *secondly*, to evidence that the Persons so convicted, seized, and
" their Estates levied, are not Popish Recusants, but such as are distinguished
" by the Name of Quakers, and Protestant Dissenters, which we shall do by
" Witnesses.

" Then, *lastly*, we shall offer unto your Consideration a Test or Protest for
" a Distinction between us and Popish Recusants, which we have also here
" ready."

Copies of the aforesaid Case were also delivered to the Members of a
Committee of Parliament appointed to enquire into the suffering Cases of
Protestant Dissenters upon the said Statutes, and the Report made thereupon
was probably one of the Motives or Inducements upon which

ANNO 1681. The House of Commons came to the following Resolu-
tion, viz.

Resolution of
the House of
Commons.

" Resolved. That it is the Opinion of this House, that Prosecution of Pro-
" testant Dissenters upon the Penal Laws is at this Time grievous to the
" Subjects, a weakening of the Protestant Interest, an Encouragement to
" Popery, and dangerous to the Peace of the Kingdom."

This Resolution, however just and reasonable, was not permitted to pass into
a Law: For the Parliament was dissolved before they had Time and Oppor-
tunity to apply any Remedy for the Cure of so great a Grievance.

Distresses on
R. Pate.

In this Year Robert Pate, of George's Parish in Southwark, was fined for
being at a Meeting in Wandsworth: One Justice Foster, of Stepney, came with
the Constable to his House, and made a Demand of 50s. and several Times
ordered

ordered the Constable to be sure to take enough: So his Goods were taken away to the Value of 4*l.* 6*s.* LONDON, &c.

On the 15th of the Month called April this Year, Richard Kirton, of Kingston, was arrested at the Suit of William Wiggan, Priest of that Parish, for about 13*l.* demanded for Tithes, and the next Day was carried to Newgate. On the 25th of the same Month he was conveyed to Westminster-hall, and thence committed to the Fleet, where he lay six Weeks, and during that Imprisonment had taken from him six Cows and two Horses worth 41*l.*

1681.
R. Kirton
imprisoned for
Tithes.

In the next Month, Thomas Petchet, of Paul's Shadwell, suffered Distress for Tithes to the Value of 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

In this Year also, the following Distresses were made for the Maintenance of the Priests in the new Buildings, London, by the Lord-Mayor's Warrant, viz.

		Demand			Goods worth			
		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
From	John Osgood Linendraper, for	1	13	4	1	14	8	Distresses in London.
	Richard Whitpaine	1	7	6	2	0	2	
	John Beckly Perfumer	0	7	0	0	10	7	
	Richard Townsend	0	15	0	1	5	0	
	William Crouch	4	9	0	4	14	0	
	William Baker	1	2	6	1	12	0	
	John Tysoe Shoemaker	2	16	10½	5	5	2	
	John Day Carpenter	1	5	0	2	17	1	
	William Tileby	0	16	3	1	0	0	
	Walter Hoare	3	8	0	4	15	3	
	Thomas Witchel Threadman	1	2	0	1	15	6	
	Thomas Cooke Brazier	1	4	6	2	8	10	
		<hr/>			<hr/>			
	For	20	6	11½	Taken	29	18	3

In October this Year, Gabriel Yarwood, of Horslydown, being summoned to serve on the Coroner's Inquest, for refusing to Swear, had his Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 2*l.* 12*s.* And for the same Cause were taken from Gabriel Rich, James Braine, and John Broadgate, Goods worth 9*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* For refusing to Swear.

In the same Year, for refusing to bear Arms, were taken, by Warrants granted by some of the Lieutenancy,

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
From Christopher Sibthorp Brazier, Goods worth	7	0	0	For refusing to bear Arms.
Henry Ford Carpenter	10	7	0	
John Beckly Perfumer	5	9	8	
John Dew Joyner	0	4	0	
Clement Taylor, of Wapping, Mealman	1	3	0	
John Selwood, of Mile-end, Brewer	4	13	0	
William Crouch, Upholder	1	5	0	
Thomas Anderson, of Clerkenwell	1	3	0	
John Staploe, of Buttolph's, Aldersgate	1	15	0	
Richard Townsend, of Martins-le-Grand	0	9	8	
	<hr/>			
	33	9	4	

ANNO 1682. In this Year, George Whitehead had his Goods taken away to the Value of 14*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* by the following Warrant, viz.

“ London *is.*

“ **W**HEREAS George Whitehead, of Houndsditch, in the Parish of St. Buttolph, † within Bishop's-gate, London, was upon the 13th Day of August last past, in the 34th Year of his Majesty's Reign, legally con- Warrant for Distress on G. Whitehead.
VOL. I. 5 X “ victed

* This Distress was made by the Priest, and an Alehouse-keeper who was his Clerk without any Constable.

† It should have been without.

LONDON,

8th
1682.

“victed before me Sir John Moore, Knt. Lord-Mayor of the City of London,
 “by the Oaths of two sufficient Witnesses, for that he upon the said 13th
 “Day of August, did take upon him to teach and preach in an unlawful
 “Assembly, Conventicle, or Meeting, situate in the Parish of *Albhallows*
 “*Lombard-street, London*, under Colour or Pretence of Exercise of Religion
 “in other Manner than according to the Liturgy and Practice of the Church
 “of *England*, at which Conventicle, Assembly, or Meeting, there were more
 “than five Persons, all of the Age of sixteen Years and upwards, Subjects
 “of this Realm, unlawfully assembled contrary to the late Act of Parliament
 “intituled, *An Act to suppress and prevent seditious Conventicles*: For which
 “Cause I have imposed upon him a Fine of 20*l.* by him the said George
 “*Whitehead* forfeited for his first Offence by which he stands convicted before
 “me according to the Statute in that Case made and provided. These are
 “therefore in his Majesty’s Name, and by Virtue of the said Act, to com-
 “mand you or some of you to levy the said Sum of 20*l.* by way of Distress
 “and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of him the said George *Whitehead*, and
 “that you return the said Sum of 20*l.* or such Part of it as you shall so
 “levy to me, to be distributed according to the said Act. And for your so
 “doing this shall be your Warrant. Given under my Hand and Seal this
 “10th Day of September, Anno Regis Caroli secundi 34^o. Annoq; Dom. 1682.

To the Constables, and other
 his Majesty’s Officers of
 the Peace within the said
 City, whom it may concern.

“JOHN MOORE, Mayor.”

Conviction on
 slender Evi-
 dence.

The Witnesses upon whose Evidence the Mayor granted this Warrant were, one of them an Officer of the Trained Bands, and the other a Constable, of whom the Former testified, that he saw G. Whitehead’s Lips move; and the Other, that he heard his Voice, but knew not what he said, except that he mentioned Jesus Christ and the Spirit. Upon this slender Evidence the Mayor convicted him, and about a Month after issued the aforesaid Warrant.

About four Months after, William Pritchard, being then Lord-Mayor, granted another Warrant for Distress on George Whitehead’s Goods in the following Form, viz.

“London *js.*

“To all Constables, and all other his Majesty’s Officers of the Peace
 “of the said City, whom these may concern.

Another War-
 rant against
 G. White-
 head.

“WHEREAS I have received a Certificate, under the Hand and
 “Seal of Sir Clement Armingier, Knt. one of his Majesty’s Justices of
 “the Peace for the said County of *Middlesex*, that George Whitehead, of
 “*Houndsditch*, in the Parish of St. *Buttolph*, without *Bishopsgate*, was legally
 “convicted before him the said Sir Clement Armingier on the 23d Day of July
 “last past, for that he the said George Whitehead did on the aforesaid Day take
 “upon him to teach and preach in a certain House, in the Parish of St. *Mary-*
 “*le-Savoy* in the *Strand*, where were assembled and met together more than five
 “Persons over and above those of the said House, all of them Subjects of this
 “Realm, and of sixteen Years of Age and upwards, under Colour and Pretence of
 “Exercise of Religion in other Manner than according to the Liturgy and
 “Practice of the Church of *England*, and contrary to an Act of Parliament,
 “intituled, *An Act to prevent unlawful and seditious Conventicles*: By Reason
 “whereof the said George Whitehead hath forfeited the Sum of 20*l.* for such
 “his said Offence, and stands convicted on Record for the same. These are
 “therefore in his Majesty’s Name, and by Virtue of the said Act, to com-
 “mand you, or some of you, on Sight hereof, to levy the said Sum of 20*l.*
 “by

“ by way of Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of him the said **LONDON,**
 “ *George Whitehead*, and that you return the said Sum of 20*l.* to me, to be &c.
 “ by me distributed according to the said Act. And for your so doing this 1682.
 “ shall be your sufficient Warrant. Given under my Hand and Seal the 10th
 “ Day of February 1682.

“ W. PRITCHARD, Mayor.”

By Force of this Warrant the said *George Whitehead* had Goods taken from him to the Value of 26*l.*

On the next Day after the Date of that Warrant, *G. Whitehead* was again taken at Prayer in a Meeting in *White-hart-Court, Lombard-street*, and carried to the Constable's House, whither Alderman *Daniel* came, and civilly required him to appear before the Mayor next Day, which he did; and was again recorded as convicted on the *Conventicle-Act*.

On the same Day, *Benjamin Freeman* was committed to Prison by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

“ *London* fs.

“ THESE are to require you to receive into your Custody the Body
 “ of *Benjamin Freeman* herewith sent you, being this Day taken in the
 “ Streets of this City, in the Time of Divine Service, making Tumults and
 “ Disturbances, and caused great Numbers of People to assemble together to
 “ the Breach of his Majesty's Peace; and for want of Sureties for his personal
 “ Appearance at the next Sessions of the Peace to be held for this City, to
 “ answer the same, and him there safely keep until he shall be discharged by
 “ due Course of Law. Dated and sealed this 11th Day of February 1682-3.

Commitment
of B. Free-
man to Prison.

To the Keeper of Wood-
street Counter.

“ W. PRITCHARD, Mayor.”

The Disturbance and Breach of the Peace mentioned in this *Mittimus*, was only his preaching to an Assembly who were shut out of their Meeting-house at *Martin's-le-grand*.

On the 24th of October this Year, by two Warrants, granted by the Justices *Richardson* and *Galliard*, were taken from *William Balden*, a Mealman of *Barnet*, for being at religious Meetings, thirty Sacks of Meal worth 34*l.* and a Copper, Brewing Vessels, &c. worth 14*l.* 17*s.* making together 48*l.* 17*s.*

Distress on
W. Balden.

About the same Time *John Oakley*, for being at a Meeting at *Winchmore-hill*, was fined 10*s.* for himself and Wife, and 8*l.* for an unknown Preacher, for which Fines his Goods were taken away to the Value of 12*l.*

J. Oakley
fined.

For being at the same Meeting, *James Lowry*, of *Edmonton*, had two Doors broke open, and two Quarters of Malt and two Horses taken away, to the Value of 14*l.* 10*s.* And for the same Meeting also, *Richard Chare*, of *Winchmore-hill*, had Goods taken from him worth 10*l.*

And James
Lowry.

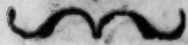
In this Year also, were taken for Meetings in the Savoy,

	l.	s.	d.	
From <i>George Green</i> , of <i>Clement's-Danes</i> , Goods worth	14	13	0	Distresses for Meetings at the Savoy.
<i>Timothy Emerson</i> , Brandy and other Goods worth	13	13	0	
<i>John Ingram</i> , Goods worth	1	0	0	
<i>Benjamin Freeman</i> , Apothecary, all his Shop- Goods, being eight Porters Loads, valued at	30	0	0	
<i>Josiah Ellis</i> , Cloth, Serges, and other Goods worth	27	10	0	
<i>William Oiles</i> , Leather worth	46	0	0	
<i>Richard Collet</i> , a Silver Tankard worth	7	0	0	
<i>Gregory Tingy</i> , Perspective and other Glasses worth	5	9	8	
Carried over	145	5	8	

LONDON

&

1682.



		l.	s.	d.
	Brought over	145	5	8
From	John Jones, of Andrew's Holborne, Gloveseller,	32	10	0
	Goods out of his Shop at several Times worth			
	Elias Sims, of Wyck-street, Upholstery Goods worth	50	2	6
		<hr/>		
		227	18	2

In this Year likewise, were taken by the Lord-Mayor's Warrants for the Maintenance of the Priests in the new Buildings of London, as follows, viz.

Distresses in London.

		l.	s.	d.
From	John Webster, of Edmund's Lombard-street, for	1	2	6½
	10s. demanded, Goods worth			
	William Gibson, for 24s. demanded, Goods worth	1	13	6
	Gerard Roberts, for 10s. demanded, Goods worth	1	4	2
	William Wiggan, for 13s. demanded, Goods worth	0	19	0
	John Beckly, for 6s. demanded, Goods worth	0	15	1
	Thomas Cobb, for 10s. demanded, Goods worth	1	1	6
	John Tyfoe, for 17s. 6d. demanded, Goods worth	1	13	4
		<hr/>		

For 4l. 10s. 6d.

Taken 8 9 1½

Taken also for 15s. demanded by the Priest of Paul's Shadwell, from Elizabeth Clarke, John Eaves, and William Braine, Goods worth 2l. 4s. And for Demands of 2l. 8s. made by Simon Patrick, Priest of Covent-garden, Goods were taken from Francis Dove, Thomas Furloe, and John Kellsall, to the Value of 3l. 3s. 8d.

Execution for Tithes.

On the 29th of Desember this Year, Richard Kirton, of Kensington, for 6l. 4s. claimed for Tithes by William Wiggan Priest, had taken from him, by an Execution, two Horses and two Cows worth 23l. Also his Brother William Kirton, for 4l. 13s. 3d. ½d. claimed by the same Priest, had three Horses taken from him, by an Execution, worth 18l. Part of the Ground, for which this Tithe was claimed, had been overflowed, and the Crop spoiled; yet the Parson insisted upon and recovered his whole Tithe.

ANNO 1683. On the 30th of the Month called March, at the Bull and Mouth, Joane Cooke being at Prayer, and several other Women, had their Hoods, Clothes, and Scarves burnt with Squibs thrown in; and were otherwise grievously abused by the rude People.

Fines for Preaching.

On the 4th of the Month called April, Peter Daniel, Alderman of the Bridge-Ward, came to the Meeting at Grace-church-street, and commanded a Constable to disperse the Meeting, and to pull down John Vaughton then preaching. The Constable answered, that he was no Porter, and could not carry them on his Back: He had desired them to depart, and that he had no Warrant to use any Force with them, his Office being only to keep the Peace. This made the Alderman angry, and calling other Assistance, he went up into the Gallery, pulled down John Vaughton, and carried him into an House in the Yard, got two Men to swear against him, and fined him 20l. After which he entred the Meeting again, and found Richard Almond preaching, whom he also carried out, and fined him 20l.

Others fined and sent to Prison.

On the 8th of the same Month, at the same Place, being shut out of the Meeting-house, Thomas Gilpin, James Claypool, and James Martin, preached one after another in the Street: They were taken by Constables, and carried to the Exchange, where, William Briggins speaking to them, they were all four carried before the Lord-Mayor, and a Riot was sworn against them; whereupon they were bound to appear at the next Sessions, and then were fined 40s. each, and imprisoned seventeen Days.

More Fines for Preaching.

On the 15th, at the same Place, Benjamin Freeman preaching, was taken by the City-Marshall, and carried before Alderman Peake, who fined him 20l.

On

On the 25th, the said Alderman *Peake* and a Constable, took *John Tysoe*, *James Beech*, and *Robert Bridgman*, from a Meeting in the same Court, and the Alderman fined *John Tysoe* 15*l.* and the other two 10*l.* each.

LONDON,
&c.
1683.

At a Meeting at *Devonshire-house*, on the 1st of the same Month, a Party of Soldiers, headed by a Lieutenant, came in; and as the Friends were sitting in Silence, the Lieutenant violently struck several of them with a large knotted Stick; one of whom, *John Sparefield*, received so sore a Blow on his Head, that he went home very ill, and unable to work: He spat much Blood, languished about fourteen Days, and then died.

J. Sparefield
dies of a Blow
on the Head.

On the 7th of the Month called *May*, *Benjamin Freeman*, who had been taken at the *Bull and Mouth* Meeting, was a Prisoner in *Newgate*.

On the 13th of the same Month, *Theophilus Green*, preaching in a Meeting at *Hammer-smith*, was carried before a Justice, who ordered him to be set in the Stocks for travelling on that Day, being the First of the Week.

T. Green set
in the Stocks.

About the same Time, for being at several Meetings in this County, were taken by Distress

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
From <i>John French</i> , of <i>Edmonton</i> , Goods worth	3	15	0	<i>Distresses for</i> <i>Meeting.</i>
<i>John Robins</i> , of <i>Waltham</i> , Cattle worth	9	0	0	
<i>Jonas Pearce</i> , of <i>Hodsdon</i> , Shoes worth	0	10	0	
<i>Henry Essex</i> , of the same, Pewter worth	1	10	0	
<i>Martba Banks</i> , of <i>Broxburne</i> , Goods worth	1	10	0	
<i>William Bates</i> , of <i>Chefbunt</i> , two Cows worth	6	0	0	
	22	5	0	

William Tanner, of *Uxbridge*, taken at a Meeting at *Wooburn* in *Buckinghamshire*, was sent to *Ailbury Goal*.

On the 1st of the Month called *July*, *John Brown* and *Thomas Curwin* were imprisoned by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

“ *Midd^x fs.*

“ *To the Governours of the House of Correction at Whitechapel.*

“ **R** E C E I V E into your Custody the Bodies of *John Brown* and *Thomas Curwin* herewith sent you, being brought before us, and charged with being with other Persons making a Riot and Disturbance in the Street, and them safely keep till farther Examination, and let them not be discharged but by due Course of Law. Given under our Hands the 1st Day of *July*, Anno Dom. 1683.

Mittimus of
J. Brown and
T. Curtis.

“ *Wm. SMITH,*
“ *Ro. HASTING.*”

Thus they who met together peaceably were charged as Authors of the Disturbances that were made by those who molested them.

On the 3d, *Robert Sandilands* was sent to *Newgate*: His *Mittimus* was as follows,

“ *London fs.*

“ **F** O R A S M U C H as *Robert Sandilands* was, upon the first Day of *July* last, brought before us Sir *James Edwards* and Sir *Henry Tulse*, Knts. two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for this City, and charged upon Oath before us, that the said *Robert Sandilands* hath, within the Space of one Year last past, taken upon him to teach and preach, and hath preached, that is to say, on the 1st Day of *July* Instant, in a certain Place called

Mittimus of
R. Sandilands
on the Oxford
At.

LONDON, " *White-bart-Court*, in the Parish of *Albhallows Lombard-street*, in the City
 " of *London*, in an unlawful Assembly, Conventicle, or Meeting, under Colour
 " or Pretence of Exercise of Religion, contrary to the Laws of this King-
 " dom, where there were ten Persons, Subjects of this Realm, and each of
 " them above the Age of sixteen Years, besides those of the same Household,
 " met together under Colour or Pretence of Exercise of Religion, in other
 " Manner than according to the Liturgy or Practice of the Church of *England*.
 " Notwithstanding which, the said *Robert Sandilands*, not having taken or
 " subscribed the Oath contained in the Statute, made in the 17th Year of his
 " Majesty's Reign that now is, intituled, *An Act for restraining Non-conformists*
 " *from inhabiting in Corporations*, hath by the Space of two Days after such
 " his preaching in such unlawful Assemblies as aforesaid, settled himself, and
 " been inhabiting, and not passing upon the Road, nor served with any Writ,
 " *Subpœna*, Warrant, or other Process whatsoever, within five Miles of the
 " said Place called *White-bart-Court*, where he so preached as aforesaid, within
 " the City and Liberties of *London*, which said City doth, and Time out of
 " Mind hath, sent Burgesses to serve in Parliament, hereby taking Occasion
 " to distill the poisonous Principles of Schism and Rebellion into the Hearts of
 " his Majesty's Subjects, to the great Danger of Church and State, and in
 " Contempt of the Statute aforesaid. Which Offence being proved against
 " the said *Robert Sandilands*, we did the Day aforesaid tender the said *Robert*
 " *Sandilands* the Oath contained in the Statute aforesaid by him to be taken,
 " and required the said *Robert Sandilands* to swear the same, which he volun-
 " tarily and obstinately refused to do, as also to subscribe the Declaration
 " mentioned in the said Act, by us to him likewise tendred. We do therefore
 " send you herewithal, by Virtue of the said Act, the Body of the said
 " *Robert Sandilands*, and strictly charge and command you in his Majesty's
 " Name to receive him into your Goal, and him safely keep there without
 " either Bale or Mainprize for the Space of six Months next ensuing the Date
 " hereof. Herein fail not, as you will answer the Contrary at your utmost
 " Perils. Given under our Hands and Seals the 3d Day of *July*, Anno Regni
 " Regis Caroli secundi Dei Gratia nunc Angliæ, &c. 31^o. Annoq; Dom. 1683.

To the Keeper of Newgate,
 or his Deputy there.

" JAMES EDWARDS,
 " HENRY TULSE."

P. Living-
 stone impri-
 soned.

A few Weeks before this, *Patrick Livingstone*, having been taken at the same Place, kneeling in Prayer, was carried before Sir *William Pritchard*, Lord-Mayor, who sent him to *Wood-street-Counter*. At the next Sessions, held the 9th of the Month called *July*, he was tried for a Riot, and convicted, and fined 30s. and for Non-payment committed to *Newgate*.

At Bull and
 Mouth Meet-
 ing.

On the 5th of the Month called *August*, at a Meeting at the *Bull and Mouth*, *James Morton*, having a Warrant from the Lord-Mayor, came with two Files of Musquetiers of the Yellow Regiment of the City *Militia*, made Proclamation, turned the Assembly out of the Meeting-house, and placed four Centinels at the Doors, whom he ordered to fire upon the Friends if they did not keep clear of their Arms. The Meeting however continued in the Street, and *Job Netherwood* afterward had his Goods distrained for being there to the Value of 15l.

Commitment
 of W. Bing-
 ley to the
 Marshalsea.

On the same Day, at the *Park* in *Southwark*, *William Bingley*, preaching, was pulled down by Soldiers; also *Richard Needham*, praying, was dragged away, and they two, with about forty others, were carried to the Guard at *Horslydown*, where their Names were taken by Justice *Pierce*, who committed *William Bingley* to the *Marshalsea*.

A. Tomkins
 and others
 fined.

On the 12th of the same Month, *Anthony Tomkins*, preaching at the same Place, was pulled out of the Gallery, and with several others carried before the Justices at the *King's-Bench*, who fined him 20l. and the others 5s. each.
 On

On the 19th, Richard Needham, Peter Davis, Edward Littleton, Thomas Witham, William Tenguy, Joseph Tomson, Daniel Rosier, John Danson, William Care, George Tipping, Thomas Grove, William Charles, William Darby, Thomas Chamberlain, Thomas Seabrook, John Pike, Nathanael East, Thomas Curwin, William Webb, John Paulby, and Joseph Wilkinson, were taken from a Meeting at Devonshire-house, and committed by the Lord-Mayor to the Poultry-Counter till Sessions, when they were all convicted of a Riot, fined 5s. each, and sent to Newgate.

LONDON,
&c.
1683.

21 Sent to
Prison.

About the same Time, the following Persons, having been returned into the Exchequer for Absence from their Parish Church, had their Goods taken by Process out of that Court; those who made the Distress taking all they could find. They took

From William Townsend, of Olaves Southwark, Goods worth	5	0	0
John Ferris, of Mary Overies	18	15	6
Henry Parker, of the same	6	10	6
Robert Pate, of George's Southwark	5	10	0
Edward Brooks, of Olaves Southwark	5	6	0
Henry Snook, of the same	5	18	6
Richard Haines, of the Parish of Christ-church	5	13	0
	52	13	6

Distresses by
Exchequer
Process.

Some Time before this, Robert Mason, Richard Spot, and William Brice, were committed to New-Prison for refusing to Swear. Robert Coale also was sent to Newgate by the following Mittimus, viz.

“ London fs.

“ **W** H E R E A S Robert Coale, of the Parish of Stepney, alias Stebbon-beath, in the County of Middlesex, Needlemaker, being above the
“ Age of eighteen Years, came this Day before us Sir William Pritchard, Knt.
“ Lord-Mayor of the City of London, and Sir James Smith, one of the Alder-
“ men of this City, two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace within this City
“ and Liberties, I the said Mayor being one of the Quorum; and was by us
“ now required to take upon the holy Evangelists of Almighty God the Oath
“ of Obedience mentioned in the Statute made in the 3d Year of our Sovereign
“ Lord King James, the same Oath being read to him, and before us now
“ newly tendred to him, which Oath the said Robert Coale now did absolutely
“ refuse to take. These are therefore, according to the Authority by the Laws
“ in this Behalf made given to us, to require, and in his Majesty's Name, to
“ command you, forthwith upon Sight hereof, to take into your Custody the
“ Body of the said Robert Coale, committed by us to the common Goal of
“ Newgate for this City, and to keep him there to remain, without Bail or
“ Mainprize, till the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be holden
“ for the said City of London, to be then and there dealt with according to
“ Law. And this shall be your Warrant. Dated and given under our Hands
“ and Seals this first Day of April 1683, and in the 35th Year of his Majesty's
“ Reign over England, &c.

Mittimus of
R. Coale to
Newgate.

To the Keeper of his Majesty's
Goal of Newgate, being the
common Goal for the City
of London.

“ WILLIAM PRITCHARD, Mayor,
“ JAMES SMITH.”

On the 19th of the Month called August, George Whitehead was again taken at a Meeting in Westminster, preaching, of which he was soon after convicted before Sir Clement Armingher. A Copy of which Conviction is as follows, viz.

Middlesex

LONDON,
&c.

1683.

Conviction of
G. White-
head.

Middlesex *Is.*

MEMORANDUM, That on the 4th Day of September, in the 35th Year of the Reign of King Charles the Second, George Whitehead, of the Parish of St. Buttolph's, without Bishopsgate, London, Grocer, as well by the Oath of Peter Burdett, of the Parish of St. Buttolph's, without Bishopsgate, Weaver, and Robert Ball, of the Parish of Bridget London, Weaver, two credible Witnesses, as by the notorious Circumstance of the Fact, before me Clement Armingier, Knt. one of the Justices of our said Lord the King, assigned for the keeping of the Peace in the County aforesaid, in due Manner and according to the Form of the Statute in that Case made and provided, stands convicted, for that he the said George Whitehead then being of the Age of sixteen Years and upwards, and a Subject of our said Lord the King, hath been present at a certain unlawful Assembly, Conventicle, and Meeting, held the 19th Day of August in the Year aforesaid, in the Parish of St. Margaret's Westminster, in the County aforesaid, in the House of a certain Person unknown there situate, under Colour and Pretence of religious Exercise, in other Manner than according to the Liturgy and Practice of the Church of England: And also that the said George Whitehead then and there took upon him to teach or preach in the aforesaid unlawful Assembly, Conventicle, or Meeting, and then and there did preach and teach, &c. against the Peace of our said Lord the King that now is, his Crown and Dignity, and against the Form of the Statute in that Case made and provided: Whereby the said George Whitehead hath forfeited the Sum of forty Pounds, according to the Form of the Statute, for his second Offence aforesaid. In Testimony whereof I the aforesaid Justice to this present Record, my Hand and Seal have put, the Day and Year first aforesaid.

" CLEMENT ARMINGER."

The same Justice on the next Day signed the following Certificate of the aforesaid Conviction, viz.

" To the Right Honourable Sir WILLIAM PRITCHARD, Knt. Lord-Mayor of the City of London, and to the Right Worshipful the Aldermen of the said City, and to every of them whom it may concern.

Certificate of
that Convic-
tion.

" T H E S E are to certify, that George Whitehead, of Houndsditch in the Liberty of London, Grocer, stands convicted by the Oaths of two credible Witnesses upon Record before me Sir Clement Armingier, Knt. one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, for taking upon him to preach and teach in other Manner and Form than according to the Liturgy and Practice of the Church of England, on the 19th Day of August last, in the Afternoon, in a certain unlawful Assembly, Conventicle, or Meeting, in the Parish of St. Margaret Westminster, in the County aforesaid, in Contempt of an Act of Parliament made in the 22d Year of his Majesty's Reign, intituled, *An Act to prevent and suppress seditious Conventicles*, by Virtue of which Act I have imposed a Fine of forty Pounds upon him the said George Whitehead, this being the second Offence of which he stands convicted before me upon Record. Given under my Hand this 5th Day of September, Anno regni Caroli secundi nunc Angliæ 35^o. Annoq; Dom. 1683.

" CLEMENT ARMINGER."

Upon this Certificate of the aforesaid Conviction, which had been made without any Summons, Citation, or Hearing of the said George Whitehead before the

the said Justice, a Warrant for Distress was granted by Alderman *James Smith*, pursuant to which, on the 13th of September, *John Manby*, of Broad-street, Constable, *John Elliot*, a Taylor in Scalding-Alley, and one *Gardiner*, a Razor-grinder near the Exchange, came with much Fury and Violence, and broke open the Shop, Back-door, and several other Doors belonging to the Chambers of *George Whitehead*, and seized all his Beds and Bedclothes, a large Looking-Glass, a Scrutore, Cane-Chairs, and other Household Goods, also Currants and Sugar out of his Shop, moderately valued by the Owner at 32*l.* but were taken and carried away without suffering any Inventory, Weighing, or Appraisement. It happened, during the Time of this Seizure, that two of *George Whitehead's* Friends, *John Edge* and *Joseph Peckover*, being accidentally Spectators of the breaking open his Doors, spoke civilly to the Constables to keep the Peace, and desired that an Inventory of the Goods might be taken, for which the Constables of meer Malice swore a Riot against them, and caused them to be bound over to appear at the next Sessions; at which they were fined, and committed to *Newgate*, and there strictly detained ten Weeks, to their great Loss, being Men of considerable Trade and Business, and the said *Joseph Peckover* above eighty Miles from Home.

In the same Month, *Mariabella Farmborough*, for preaching in the Street near the Bull and Mouth, was sent to the Counter, and confined there about a Week.

About the same Time, *Timothy Emerson*, of Gerard-street in Martin's Parish, had all his Goods in his Shop and Chambers seized and sold for 11*l.* 9*s.* His Wife, a weakly Woman, had then lately lain in, yet the Officers seized and sold even the Bed she lay on.

On the 7th of October, *Thomas Robinson* was taken by the City-Marshall from a Meeting in *White-bart-Court*, and fined by the Lord-Mayor 20*l.*

On the 10th of the same, *John Elson*, of Sepulcher's Parish, for a Fine of 20*l.* for the Peel Meeting-house, and 10*l.* for an unknown Preacher, was distrained on by one *Yates*, Headborough of Clerkenwell, and *Gabriel Shad*, Informers, with two Soldiers and some other Persons, upon two Warrants granted by *Peter Sabbs*, Justice. They broke open his Doors after seven at Night, he being from Home, and seized his Goods, kept Possession of his House all Night, eating, drinking, and carousing to Excess, of what they found in the House, viz. Wine, Brandy, Ale, Syrups, Bread and Cheese, &c. saying. *It was all the King's.* They would not suffer any Neighbour to come into the House, though desired by several, but one of the Soldiers swore, *He would run his Sword into some of their Guts.* The Woman of the House, *Mary Elson*, was obliged to sit up all Night. Next Morning they loaded away four Loads of Household Stuff, with a Chest belonging to a Lodger, wherein were Writings of much Concern; they also took away the Servants wearing Apparel, and several Things belonging to two Widows, which *Mary Elson* told them were none of hers; also eight Loads of Timber and Boards out of the Yard. The Meeting-house, for which this Seizure was made, not being the Property of the said *John Elson*, he made his Appeal, and had his Goods again upon Payment of 30*l.* into the Hands of the said Justice *Peter Sabbs*, in order to traverse it. But before the Time for trying his Appeal, the Justice absconded, withdrew from his Creditors into a privileged Place, and the Money was lost. In like Manner, *Anthony Ellwood* lost by the same Justice 5*l.* deposited in his Hands in order to an Appeal, from a false Information of his being at a Meeting.

Thomas Green, fined 20*l.* for preaching at a Meeting in *White-bart-Court*, had taken from him a Quantity of Silk which cost him 27*l.* 19*s.* And *William Warren*, for the same Cause, had Serge taken away worth 10*l.*

On the 28th of the same Month, the First of the Week, one Major Price, of the blue Regiment, with a Lieutenant, and Serjeant Hoare, of Lombard-street, came to the Meeting at the Bull and Mouth with Files of Musquetiers, saying, *What's here to do? I command you all in the King's Name to depart every Man to his Habitation, if not it is a Riot, and we will break all your Things to Pieces.* Francis Stamper, being in the Gallery, said, Friends, be still, and keep

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&c.
1683.

Warrant for
Distress, by
which his
Doors were
broke open.

A malicious
Prosecution.

Imprisonment.

Distress.

Fine.

Distress on the
Goods of J.
Elson.

Distresses for
Preaching.

Violent Pro-
ceeding at Bull
and Mouth.

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1683.

Indictment of
F. Stamper
and others.

Plea.

your Places : Whereupon they caused him and others in the Gallery to be pulled down, and having turned all out of the Meeting, the Major and Soldiers fell to breaking the Windows, not leaving in some of them one Piece of Glas or Lead. They also broke several of the Forms in Pieces : After which they went into the Street, where the Meeting continued, and took away *John Brooks*, *Jeremy Snow*, *Francis Stamper*, and *James Whitaker*, whom they carried before the *Lord-Mayor*, who engaged them to appear at the Sessions ; and some of the Soldiers, who had made all the Disturbance, were bound to prosecute them.

At the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace held at the *Old-Baily*, on the 10th of the Month called *January*, *Francis Stamper*, *Jeremiah Snow*, *James Whitaker*, and *John Brooks*, before mentioned to have been taken at the *Bull and Mouth* in *October*, and engaged to appear at the next Sessions, appeared accordingly. They were indicted for a Riot in the usual Form. The Proceedings were as follows,

Recorder. *Are you Guilty or Not ?*

Stamper. Of what ?

Recorder. *Of the Indictment laid against you.*

Stamper. Read it.

The Clerk read it.

Recorder. *Well, Stamper, now what say you, are you Guilty, or Not ?*

Stamper. *Not Guilty* in Manner and Form of that Indictment, and I hope there's no Body that will or dare swear that we staid there a Quarter of an Hour after making any Proclamation, if there be any Evidence it was made : Neither did I ever meet with Force and Arms to disturb the Peace, in my Life, for I never met with outward Armour.

Recorder. *Well, you plead Not Guilty : Where's your Sureties to appear at next Sessions.*

Snow. We desire our Words may be taken as before.

Recorder. *Your Words : No, be bound one for another.*

Whitaker. We hope our Words may be taken.

Recorder. *We must have some bound : Think not that we will make new Laws for you.*

Whitaker. Our Words are as well as our Bonds, and we hope they may be taken.

Recorder. *That's your Presumption and Pride to conceit your selves so much better than other Men, that your Words must be as good as their Bonds. That's your great Haughtiness of Mind.*

Whitaker. No, it's the Fear of God that makes us do as we say.

Recorder. *No, it's your great Pride and Presumption.*

Stamper. He did not say, as good as other Mens Bonds, but as good as our own Bonds.

Recorder. *Well, you may have a Copy : We will do you all the Justice we can.*

On the 14th their Trial came on.

The Charge from the Bench to the Jury was very severe, but particularly sharp upon the *Presbyterians*, because of some Tickets when to meet being found among them : But as to the *Quakers* the chief Objection was, that their Way of opposing the Government was by standing still.

Recorder. *Why did you thus meet ?*

Stamper. Where are our Accusers ?

Recorder. *Call Mr. Pierce.*

Richard Pierce. My Lord, I commanded a Party, and at *Bull and Mouth* these Persons were met, with three or four Hundred more, I believe.

Recorder. *Ay, look ye Gentlemen, there was a Conventicle.*

R. Pierce. I made Proclamation to depart, which immediately they did, but these Persons being within the Rail, where they use to hold forth, I took them into Custody, and brought them to my Major, who bound them over to Sessions.

Recorder.

Their Trial.

Recorder. *What were they doing there?*

R. Pierce. *They were saying nor doing nothing.*

A Counsellor. *Then it appears not that they staid a Quarter of an Hour after Proclamation made.*

Another Counsellor. *Are you for the King, and do you undertake to open the Cause?*

Recorder. *Were they not met under Pretence of religious Worship?*

Whitaker. *No: We were met under no Pretence, but on purpose to worship God.*

Stamper. *The Evidence clears us from the Fact charged, viz. A Riot with Force and Arms to disturb the King's Peace, and tells you, we were all in Peace, viz. Not saying nor doing any Thing, and all quiet.*

Recorder. *But you were met there under Pretence of Religion.*

Stamper. *No, in Reality.*

Recorder. *For what?*

Stamper. *On purpose to worship God.*

Recorder. *Well said: And so you say all. James Whitaker, what say you?*

Whitaker. *We were met to worship God in Spirit.*

Recorder. *What say you, Jeremy Snow?*

Snow. *We were met for no other End, but to worship God in Spirit and in Truth.*

Recorder. *And what say you, John Brooks?*

Brooks. *What! Is it become a Crime now a-Days for People to be found worshipping God?*

Recorder. *No: But what you call Worship is no Worship; and that Religion, no Religion, for all Colours and Pretences of Religion, not according to the Religion now by Law established is null, and no Religion at all, for it must be either according to, or opposite to the Law, and Religion established by it: But yours is not according to, therefore opposite.*

Stamper. *'Tis not apparent by the Evidence, that we have done contrary to the Liturgy and the Law, and the Act against Conventicles punishes not as Rioters, nor for leaving undone any Part of the Liturgy, but for committing something contrary to it: So if you prosecute us by that Act, we ought not to be taken Notice of by a Sessions, but by a Justice fined, as the 22d of the King directs.*

Recorder. *Well, by that Act we have enough against you, for every unlawful Assembly is a Riot.*

Stamper. *I suppose that cannot be proved. The Law that treats of Riots was made before. But this Statute expresses, that the Persons taken shall be proceeded against according to the Act, and not as Rioters.*

Recorder. *We have Law enough against you.*

Stamper. *What Law?*

Recorder. *The 35 Eliz. that worthy Queen, in the Time of her gracious and blessed Reign, troubled with this Sort of Conventicles, and seditious riotous Assemblies.*

Stamper. *It is well known our Meetings are not riotous, nor seditious, but peaceable, and in good Will, as many can witness, and you have had Experience of us long.*

Recorder. *Read the 35 Eliz.*

Which was read.

Recorder. *Here, you, Gentlemen, may see, that an Assembly so met is contrary to Law, and their Meeting being unlawful is a Riot. If a Company of People should come into an House, and set up an Image and worship it, it is an unlawful Act, yet here is no Force and Arms, and yet it may be counted a Riot.*

Stamper. *This is strained to hurt our Cause, for here is no Word mentioned in the Act of a Riot, that I know, and has not Relation to our Indictment.*

Recorder. *Has it not? But the Court is of another Opinion. And we must over-rule you when you go on so contrary to Law.*

Stamper, turning to the Jury, said, Neighbours and Jurymen, we are indicted for a Riot, and the Law says, there can be no Riot but when there are
Force

LONDON, *Force and Arms in meeting to the Terror of the People, and to commit some violent Act on the Person or Property of another, as may be seen in the several Writers of the Law. See Cooke, Dalton, Lambert, Keeble, who all treat of this Matter.*

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1683.

Some of the Bench said, *Speak to the Court.*

Stamper. I speak to the Court and Jury, and the Lord direct their Hearts to do according to Equity and Truth.

Recorder. Summing up the Matter, grounded it on the 35th of *Eliz.* and said, that *Peace-Officers* ought to take Care to suppress that Meeting, and if they would live among us, said he, they must be subject to our Laws. 'Tis no new Thing to make these Assemblies Riots: It has been done in other Parts of England, as well as at last Sessions. If we suffer them to go on thus, what signify our Laws made against such unlawful Assemblies. We may as well set them over us, and give up Laws and every Thing. So, I hope, Gentlemen, you will take Care of it.

Verdict.

The Jury brought them in Guilty.

Hard Confinement.

Then they were turned into the *Baledock*, and kept there till eleven at Night, without Fire, in that remarkable Frost, when Streets of Booths were built on the *Thames*: After five Hours Confinement they were had back to *Newgate*, and not admitted to hear what Fines were laid upon them. In *Newgate* seventeen of them were thronged into one Room, so close, that they have sometimes gone into the House of Ease for the sweetest Air they could have, the Smoke and Stench of the Place being ready to stifle them, being unaccustomed to such Living. Their Fines were afterward fixt at 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* each. *Jeremiah Snow*, after five Weeks Imprisonment, was discharged by the Sheriff, but the rest continued longer, in that extreme cold Season: And one of them, *James Whitaker*, remained there above four Months.

Trial of seven others, and their Conviction.

Length of Imprisonment.

At the same Sessions, *Samuel Waldensfield*, *William Bingley*, *Robert Cary*, *Ralph Johnson*, *Christopher Williams*, *Richard Baldwin*, and *John Horner*, who had been taken at a Meeting in *White-bart-Court*, were also tried for a Riot, brought in Guilty, fined 5*l.* each, and for Non-payment committed to Prison, where *William Bingley* continued four Months, three Weeks, and two Days; *Richard Baldwin* three Months, three Weeks, and four Days; *Ralph Johnson* three Months, and three Weeks; *John Horner* one Month, three Weeks, and five Days; *Christopher Williams* (till he died) three Weeks, and six Days; *Robert Cary*, two Months, one Week, and five Days; and *William Philips* one Month, one Week, and one Day.

Meetings in the Street in extreme cold Weather.

In this extreme hard Winter the Meetings in and about *London* were usually guarded by Constables, or Soldiers, who kept the Friends out, and obliged them to meet in the Streets, which they constantly did through the utmost Inclemency of the Weather. The Peace Officers would frequently permit them to abide quietly in the Street, till Informers came, who were usually so insolent as to constrain the Constables to carry the Preachers and others before the Magistrates, who were obliged under a Penalty to fine them, which the Informers insisted upon being done, that they might have their Part of the Prey. Yet those Devourers were encouraged by some Men of Eminence: And 'tis worthy Observation, that when *George Whitehead* and *William Crouch* had an occasional Conference with *Dr. Sancroft*, Archbishop of *Canterbury*, at his Palace in *Lambeth*, they told him of the Wickedness of Informers, and how frequently some of them had forsworn themselves, and deserved to be indicted for Perjury, adding, that it was a Dishonour to the Church to employ such Agents. The Archbishop's Answer was, that some crooked Timber was necessary for the Building of a Ship; thence inferring, that those vile Wretches might be useful to the Support and Service of the Church.

Besides what we have already mentioned, were taken by Distress, in this and the preceding Year,

For Meetings at *Westminster* and the *Savoy*,

Distress for Meetings.

From *John Lockwood*, *Anne Webster*, *Laurence Fullove*,
and *Samuel Bolton*, at several Times, Goods to
the Value of

l. s. d.

93 5 0

Carried over 93 5 0

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Brought over		93	5	0
For Meetings in <i>White-hart-Court</i> ,				
From <i>Daniel Quare, John Drew, Samuel Bolton, Ralph</i>				
<i>Johnson, Job Bolton, and John Heywood, Goods</i>		145	17	6
to the the Value of				
For Meetings at the <i>Bull and Mouth</i> ,				
From <i>Richard Butcher, Goods worth</i>		50	10	3
For Meetings at <i>Ratcliff</i> ,				
From * <i>Edward Witheridge, Richard Richardson, and</i>				
<i>Degory Marshall, Goods worth</i>		23	12	0
For Meetings at <i>Devonshire-house</i> ,				
From <i>John Barnard, William Crouch, John Barber,</i>				
<i>Thomas Green, Timothy Green, and William</i>		68	5	0
<i>Carter, Goods amounting to</i>				
For Meetings at the <i>Peel</i> ,				
From <i>Jacob Marriott, John Matthews, John Reading,</i>				
<i>and Job Netherwood, Goods worth</i>		80	0	0
For Meetings in <i>Southwark</i> ,				
From <i>Walter Phillips, John Potter, and Richard Scoryer,</i>				
<i>Goods to the Value of</i>		3	8	6
For Meetings at <i>Longford</i> ,				
From <i>William Bennett, and Richard Heale, Goods</i>				
valued at		55	17	0
		520	15	3

Fines and Im-
prisonments
for Meeting.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

Names of
others impri-
soned.

In this Year also, *Thomas Barker, Emanuel Low, Samuel Russel, and John Broadgate*, suffered by Fines and Imprisonment for their religious Meetings: And *John Heywood*, preaching at a Meeting in the *Park, Southwark*, was fined 20*l.* by Justice *Glover*; and five others at the same Meeting were fined 5*s.* each. About this Time also, *Christopher Sibborth, John Greenway, Thomas Thackery, John Tysoe, Thomas Scott, Benjamin Antrobus, William Chandler, and Thomas Witel*, were Prisoners in *Wood-street-Counter* on Writs de Excommunicato capiendo, as was also *Thomas Thack*, of *Buttolph's Aldersgate*, Grocer, who after nineteen Months close Confinement died a Prisoner.

Diverse others also were imprisoned this Year, of whom were *Thomas Lovet, Stephen Hubbersty, Thomas Kirton, William Kirton, and Ralph Trumper*, who were confined in *Newgate* for refusing to pay Tithes. There were also for the like Cause Prisoners in the *Fleet*, some of whom had been there several Years, the following Persons, viz.

William Goodridge, of *Somersetshire*; *William Stovey*, of *Hilperton* in *Yorkshire*; *Athur Jefferies*, of *Southbrent* in *Somersetshire*; *John Bowater*, of *Bromesgrove* in *Worcestershire*; *Charles Marshall*, of *Tetherington* in *Wiltshire*; *George Watts*, of *Audley* in *Essex*; *Christopher Halliday*, of *Strensall* in *Yorkshire*; *William Banbury*, of *Blackwell* in *Worcestershire*; also *Amy Rosham*, at the Suit of *Daniel Banks*; and *Nathanael Cawthorne*, of *Wilton* in *Huntingtonshire*.

At the same Time were Prisoners in the *Poultry-Counter*, *Susanna Laurence*, alias *Milner*, and *Laurence Fullove*, committed by an *Exchequer Writ* at the Suit of *Edward Waring*, Priest of *Alphage Parish*, for not paying Tithes.

We shall also subjoin the Names of many others sent from their religious Meetings to Prisons in and about the City, namely, *Joseph Rogers, Daniel Baker, Richard Seaton, Daniel Cooper, Samuel Goodacre, Thomas Moncks, Robert Mason,*

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William

* Note. They set a Watch on the House of *Edward Witheridge* for two Days together, and with Iron Crows broke open four Doors, and carried away Goods worth 40*l.* for a Fine of 10*l.* for himself and thirty nine others being at a Meeting in *Schoolhouse-lane*. But a Person afterwards redeemed the Goods by paying the Fine.

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William Harper, John Danson, John Mill, John Berry, Thomas Grove, Ephraim Silvester, George Elliot, William Fisher, Dennis Dodman, John Hornsmab, Richard Love, John Crome, Samuel Chairman, Joseph Willis, John Fourboulter, Peter Ken, William Garland, Samuel Everton, Edward Ellis, Thomas Barker, John Jobson, John Sessions, Jonathan Evans, and William Widowson.

Death of
H. Chandler.

Robert Mildred, of Guilford in Surry, was a Prisoner in the Fleet for small Tithes at the Suit of John Reynolds, at whose Suit also Henry Chandler died a Prisoner there, on the 22d of the Month called February 1683.

Taken more in this Year, by Warrants granted by some of the Lieutenancy, for refusing to bear Arms,

For not bear-
ing Arms.

	l.	s.	d.
From Richard Richardson, James Conyers, John Kelsall,	}	8	5 0
Edward Hoare, and John Fly, Goods worth			
George Heathcote, Degory Marshall, Thomas	}	15	8 0
Cooper, and Christopher Newham, Goods worth			
Roger Bird, Thomas Fenn, John Constantine,	}	21	8 8
Robert Winne, Richard Hawkes, and James			
Strutt, Goods to the Value of	}	9	15 0
Richard Butcher, John Edge, Christopher Sibthorp,			
Anthony Ellwood, and John Denton, Goods			
amounting to			
		54	16 8

Commitments
from Horfly-
down Meet-
ing.

On the 4th of the Month called March 1683, at Horflydown, the Friends, being kept out of their Meeting-house, were assembled after their usual Manner in the Street, when the Constables came and took away William Shewin, Anthony Tomkins, Joseph Wase, Edmund Tiddeman, Richard Post, Thomas Lurling, Joseph Rawbone, John Bridges, John Holliday, George Bradford, Edmund Curle, and Percival Parsons, whom they carried before William Spiers, a Justice at the Bridge-house, who committed them all to the Counter in Tooley-street as Rioters.

Fines and Im-
prisonments
for Preaching.

Having now gone thro' the Occurrences of this Year, we proceed to the next. ANNO 1684. On the 4th of the Month called May, Richard Needham being kept out of the Meeting at the Park in Southwark, and preaching in the Street, was fined by Justice Foster 20 l. for which his Goods were afterwards taken by Distress to the Value of 25 l. 10 s. On the 11th of the same Month John Field, for preaching at the same Place, was fined 20 l. and three others present 10 l. each. And on the same Day Mariabella Farmborough, Edward Edwards, and John Taylor, taken at a Meeting in White-bart-Court, were sent to Newgate. On the 18th about an Hundred Persons, met at the same Place, were fined, and thirty seven sent to Prison by the Lord-Mayor's Warrant, which was as follows, first reciting their Names, viz:

" Joseph Gilpin,	John Frumula,	James Martin,	Nathanael Paske,
" Thomas Cockel,	Thomas Hill,	William Warder,	Maurice Brown,
" James Jupe,	John Frank,	William Nash,	Emanuel Hutton,
" John Morris,	Richard Owen,	James Hammond,	William Creek,
" Peter Ken,	Robert Hasely,	Edward Blake,	Nathanael Cock,
" John Clarke,	Jeithro Sheaf,	Nathaniel Ward,	John Holbin,
" Samuel Blackham,	Edward Crisp,	Henry Manton,	Edward Tunstall,
" George Hardman,	William Widowson,	Robert Brasier,	
" Edward Burr,	Job Bland,	John Ball,	
" Richard Tacey,	Abraham Herbert,	Norman Clam,	

" London is.

Lord-Mayor's
Warrant.

" RECEIVE into your Custody the Bodies above-mentioned herewith
" sent you, being all of them this Day taken in a riotous and unlawful
" Meeting in White-bart-Court in Grace-church-street, and for Want of Sureties
" for

"for their several Appearances and good Behaviour: And them safely keep in your Custody until they be discharged by due Course of Law. Dated the 18th of May 1684.

LONDON,
&c.
1684.

To the Keeper of Wood-
street-Counter.

"HENRY TULSE, Mayor."

On the 1st of the Month called June were committed by Justice Piers to the Borough Counter, from Horslydown Meeting, Edmund Curle Jun. Joseph Rawbone, and Richard West: On the 3d, John Potter, Richard Fowler, Martin Gray, and William Bennett: And on the 8th, John Dowden, Peter Rose, Thomas Poor, Thomas Haines, John Hatton, William Eburne, Stephen Cooke, Thomas Manton, Robert Pike, John Blomer, William Poole, Alexander Richards, and Thomas Life: They were at the Bridge-house Sessions convicted of a Riot, and continued in Prison about six Weeks.

Many com-
mitted from
Meetings at
Horslydown.

On the 2d of the Month called July, Thomas Robinson, taken at a Meeting in White-bart-Court, was by Alderman Peake committed to the Poultry-Counter. On the 6th of the same, Justice Glover sent thirteen Persons, taken at the Park Meeting, to the Marshalsea. On the 16th, at White-bart-Court, the City-Marshal was very furious, and caused thirteen Men to be sent thence to Prison. About the same Time, Warrants being granted by Thomas Jenner, Recorder of London, upon Information of Meetings at Uxbridge, Distresses were made on Richard Heale to the Value of 10l. Richard Richardson to near the same Value; and Edward Swift about 30s. The Officers who made these Distresses gave publick Notice by a Crier, and also by a Note on the Market-place, that the Goods were in their Hands to be sold, if any would buy them: Yet Jenner the Recorder caused them to be indicted for Neglect of their Office in not executing the Warrant. About this Time also James Martin, praying in a Meeting in Aldersgate-street, was interrupted by a Constable, carried before a Justice, and committed to Wood-street-Counter.

Variety of
Prosecutions
for Meetings.

On the 17th of the Month called August, George Whitehead was taken preaching at the Park in Southwark, for which he was fined by Justice Glover 20l. On the 27th of the same Month, the said George Whitehead being on his Knees at Prayer at a Meeting in White-bart-Court, John Levens Constable, at the Instigation of Collingwood's Wife, the Informer, came in an angry Manner and apprehended him, commanding him in the King's Name to go along with him, but produced no Warrant, though several Times desired. He was carried before the Lord-Mayor, where the Woman appeared to prosecute, urging the Mayor to fine him for a Conventicle, and for Preaching. Whereupon George Whitehead observing her Confidence, said, *This Woman dictates to the Lord-Mayor, which is not her Place to do, to direct him, or any other Justice, what Law to proceed upon.* Then the Lord-Mayor told her, *It was at his Discretion what Law to proceed by:* And then asked George Whitehead, *whether he had Sureties for his Appearance at the next Sessions?* who answered, *No, I have none.* The Woman being urgent and troublesome, the Lord-Mayor asked her, *whether she would take her Oath that George Whitehead was preaching?* She answered, *that He was either preaching or praying.* G. W. replied, *that Her Evidence was uncertain, an Ignoramus Evidence, of she knows not what, therefore not sufficient for Conviction.* Then the Mayor asked G. W. himself, *If he did not preach?* He answered, *No, not at that Time, I was only praying:* And the Constable declared, *that He took him at Prayer.* The Mayor asking for some Body to be bound for his Appearance, one of the Mayor's own Servants or Officers voluntarily offered to be his Bail, and was accepted. Accordingly he appeared

G. White-
head's Ap-
pearance be-
fore the Lord-
Mayor.

LONDON, *At the Sessions at Guild-hall for the City of London, on the 1st of September,*
&c. where were
 1684.

Present on the BENCH.

HENRY TULSE, Knt. Lord-Mayor.

PETER DANIEL, Knt. } Sheriffs.

SAMUEL DASHWOOD, }

JAMES SMITH, Knt. Alderman.

THOMAS JENNER, Knt. and Recorder.

An Indictment for an unlawful Assembly, routously, and with Force of Arms, &c. was read against him.

G. White-
head's Trial
at Guild-hall.

Recorder. *Mr. Whitehead, you must plead Guilty or Not Guilty, in the first Place.*

G. W. Will not my Pleading debar me from being heard in my own Defence after the Evidence is given?

Recorder. *No: You shall be heard.*

G. W. Then I plead, Not Guilty.

Clerk. *Will you traverse, or put your self upon Trial now?*

G. W. I think not to enter Traverse, but to put it to a Trial now.

Then the Constable that took him, was called.

Constable. *I took George Whitehead at Prayer in the Meeting-house in White-bart-Court in Lombard-street.*

Recorder. *In what Posture did you take him praying?*

Constable. *Upon his Knees. One in the Court said, I thought the Quakers had not kneeled in Prayer.*

Recorder to G. W. *What say you to the Evidence? Do you deny it or not?*

G. W. I shall not deny that I was taken upon my Knees at Prayer to God, but that can be no Rout. When I was on my Knees at Prayer, this could be no moving forwards to commit a Riot.

Recorder. *But did you do nothing else before Prayer?*

G. W. No, I did not.

Recorder. *Did no Body preach?*

G. W. Excuse me there.

Recorder. *Call Mrs. Collingswood: Who presently appearing was sworn. What say you, Mrs. Collingswood, was there no preaching before G. Whitehead prayed?*

Collingswood. *Yes, there was two others that preached before he prayed.*

Com. Serjeant. *Preaching and praying are both one, their Kind of preaching and praying.*

G. W. No, but they are not, there's a Distinction in common Acceptation: Preaching or Teaching is done to Men, but Prayer and Supplication is made to God: Men do not preach to God, nor teach God, but pray to God.

Com. Serjeant. *You preach to deceive the People.*

G. W. That's a Reflection, I teach for no such End.

Recorder. *Gentlemen of the Jury: You hear the Evidence, that there was Preaching and Praying; 'twas therefore a Conventicle, an unlawful Meeting.*

G. W. I am not indictable upon the Conventicle-Act; there lies no Indictment upon it. The Conventicle-Act allows of four to meet besides the Family, whereas the Law allows not three to meet riotously, &c. 'Tis for a Rout I am indicted at Common Law (as I conceive) though some Words of the Conventicle-Act are in the Indictment, that's but an Aggravation, the Matter is a Routous Assembly that I am charged with: Wherefore I intreat the Court to suffer the Lork Cooke's Definition of a Rout, &c. to be read in Court. (G. W. calling for Cooke's Institutes, which one handed to him, opened it at the Place in the third Part, Cap. 79. Fol. 176.)

Com. Serjeant. *My Lord Cooke was mistaken.*

G. W.

G. W. Pray hear him, hear his Definition of a *Rout* and *unlawful Assembly*. LONDON,
Com. Serjeant. *I tell you, my Lord was mistaken.* &c.
1684.

G. W. Is that the Sense of the Court? The Lord Cooke and other learned Writers agree in the Definition.

Recorder. *Gentlemen of the Jury, we have heard G. Whitehead with a great deal of Patience, he is used to long speaking, you have heard the Evidence, and what he says, &c.*

G. W. Pray hear the Lord Cooke in the Case.

Court. *The King's Council has done: Take him away.* Upon which G. W. was drawn out of Court.

The Jury brought him in Guilty.

At the same Sessions came on also,

The TRIAL of Richard Whitpain, Thomas Barker, John Patterem, John Edge, Peter Lockworth, Joseph Andrews, William Briggins, John Field, Richard Baker, Anthony Elkwood, Francis Clark, Robert Southworth, Benjamin Freeman, James Goodwin, William Morton, and William Wood.

The Proceeding was as follows, viz.

The *Indictment* was read, importing, that the Persons aforesaid, on the 20th of July, were at *White-bart-Court* in *Lombard-street*, with Force and Arms, *routously, tumultuously, and unlawfully* assembled to the Breach of the Peace, &c. And under Colour and Pretence of religious Exercise in other Manner than according to the Liturgy and Practice of the Church of *England*, &c.

Clerk. *ARE you Guilty, or Not Guilty?* asking them the Question severally. Trials of 16 others.

R. Whitpain. *Not Guilty* in Manner and Form.

J. Field. It's inconsistent with my Principle and Practice to be *Guilty* of what is contained in that *Indictment*.

T. Barker. The *Indictment* consisting of diverse Parts, I cannot remember at once reading: I desire to know whether I may not have a Copy?

Com. Serjeant. *Yes, if you'll traverse.*

Recorder. *You must plead first: And if I mistake not, you have been here once or twice already, and therefore are not a Stranger to these Things.*

T. Barker. I confess I have been here before, yet know not so much, but I may learn more.

All the rest pleaded *Not Guilty*, except Peter Lockworth, who being a *Dutchman*, and for Want of an Interpreter was set by.

The Evidence being sworn, declared, *That they were met in the House.*

Court. *What did they there?*

Evidence. *They neither did nor said any Thing that we saw or heard. But Proclamation was made by the Constable, and they did not depart.*

T. Barker. That Man hindered me and many others from going out.

Evidence. *I did, when some were sent away, keep the others till those that carried them returned.*

Recorder. *Come, Mr. Barker, you are not unacquainted with these Things: Are you minded to traverse?*

T. Barker. No, I have no mind to traverse.

J. Field. I desire to be heard: I am a young Man, and was never before concerned on this wise in a Court of Judicature.

Recorder. *Say on.*

J. Field. I desire to know upon what Law or Statute our *Indictment* is grounded.

Recorder. *You are indicted for an unlawful Meeting, which the Law is against.*

VOL. I.

6 B

J. Field.

LONDON,
&c.
1684.

J. Field. Is it upon the Act against Meetings of the 22d of the King?

Recorder. Yes.

J. Field. Doth any Indictment lie upon that Statute?
Council for the King. Yes.

J. Field. I do not understand that; for it requires a Fine, &c. Then he was interrupted.

Recorder. What more have you to say?

J. Field. I desire an Answer to what I have said first.

Recorder. Say on what you have to say: I know you must speak while the Spirit moves you.

J. Field. I desire that thou, who art Judge of the Court, wouldst not reflect upon me.

Recorder. I don't reflect upon you: Don't you pretend to be led by the Spirit?

J. Field. By no other than that Spirit which leads into Peaceableness and Holiness.

W. Briggins. Have a Care how you mock at the Spirit of God?

T. Barker. 'Tis a standing Rule and Doctrine among almost all Sorts of People, that he who hath not the Spirit of Christ is none of his; and by this Spirit every true Christian ought to be led.

Recorder. That's true, Mr. Barker.

Recorder. John Field, have you any more to say?

J. Field. I do not understand that the Evidence proves the Indictment, for they swear they neither heard nor saw any Thing spoke or done: And the Indictment says, we were met with Force and Arms to the Breach of the Peace, &c. routously, tumultuously, and unlawfully. Now how could this be, if nothing was said or done? For though I be no Lawyer, neither have much Knowledge thereof, I thought meet to inform my self what the Law-Books say in this Case, that I might make the best Defence for my Liberty, which is next to my Life, that I can, and have therefore read Cooke's Institutes, the third Part, pag. 176, where I find that a Rout is where three or more Persons are met together to do an unlawful Act for their own or common Quarrel.

Com. Serjeant. Yours is the common Quarrel.

J. Field. We are peaceable, and so is our Principle, and so hath been our Practice.

Com. Serjeant. Whatever your Principles are, I'm sure your Practice is not. And then he reflected on a Person not there.

J. Edge. We desire that Reflections may be forborn, especially against Persons, when they are not present to make Answer.

Com. Serjeant. You desire: I tell you, I will speak for all you.

J. Edge. I desire thee not to reflect.

Com. Serjeant. Sir, with your Leave, I will, I will reflect.

J. Edge. Then we cannot help it.

Com. Serjeant. What! was not * One tried here for printing a Book, which saith, that they are all Deceivers that tell People the Scriptures are the Word of God.

J. Edge. There might be pretty much said to that, if it were a convenient Time and Place.

Recorder. Come, Mr. Serjeant, let's have no Disputing here.

Com. Serjeant. What are you but the Spawn of them that came out of Germany?

J. Field. It's an easy Matter to accuse, but not so easy to prove. Art thou an Evidence against us?

Recorder to John Field. Where can you shew your Law?

J. Field

* This was John Bringhurst, who had been imprisoned a long Time in Newgate for printing a little Book, called George Fox's Primer; in which was a Passage liable to Misconstruction. He being proved the Printer, was fined one Shilling, and sentenced to stand two Hours on the Pillory on the 20th of September 1684.

J. Field called for Cooke's Institutes, but the Person that had it to hold was out of the Way; so he got Lambert's Eirenarcha, and would have read in pag. 176. but was prevented.

The Recorder began to sum up the Evidence, but John Field still insisting on his Plea, the Recorder called for the Book, and found the Place; and read thus: *An unlawful Assembly is of the Company of three or more Persons disorderly coming together, and then left out the next Words, viz. forcibly to commit an unlawful Act, as to beat a Man, or enter upon his Possession or such like.*

J. Field. Read on: 'Tis to do an unlawful Act, but the Evidence says, we neither did nor said any Thing.

Court. Take him away. And as they were haling him away, Sheriff Daniel whispered to the Recorder.

Recorder. Do you hear? You with the Book in your Hand: What is your Name?

J. F. John Field.

Recorder. Where do you live?

J. Field. In the Parish of Anne and Agnes near Aldersgate.

Recorder. What Trade are you?

J. Field. I teach to write and cast Accounts.

Lord-Mayor. Then you are guilty of the Breach of another * Law.

Com. Serjeant. Take Notice of that.

Recorder. Have you the Common-Prayer in your Pocket?

J. Field. No, but I hope it would be no Offence to have that in my Pocket.

Recorder. No.

J. Field. I am able to prove, that the Common-Prayer allows of praying to, and worshipping Almighty God without Limitation of Time or Place.

Court. Take him away.

J. Field. I think it hard, that I cannot have Leave to make my Defence for my Liberty, for I have been lately ill, and cannot tell how prejudicial a close Confinement may be to me.

Court. Take him away.

J. Goodwin. God Almighty is with us and for us. Had not the Lord been on our Side when Men rose up against us, they had swallowed us up quick. Psal. cxxiv.

Court. Take him away.

So they were taken out, and after some Time called in again, when the Jury brought in their Verdict Guilty.

The Prisoners heard not their Sentences: But the Court consulted about their Fines privately. The Issue of which Consultation was, that Thomas Barker and Richard Whitpain were fined 6l. 13s. 4d. John Field 3l. 6s. 8d. and the rest 1l. 6s. 8d. each. So they, together with George Whitehead, were committed to Newgate; except only Benjamin Freeman, who was discharged in Court.

After about ten Days Imprisonment George Whitehead was released by a Liberate from one of the Sheriffs in the Form following, viz.

" To the Keeper or Under-Keeper of Newgate, London.

" **W**HEREAS you have in your Custody the Body of George Whitehead for Payment of a Fine, being convicted of an unlawful Assembly. These are to desire you to discharge the said George Whitehead from his Imprisonment. And for your so doing this shall be your Warrant. This 12th of September 1684.

Liberate for G. Whitehead.

" **SAMUEL DASHWOOD.**"

We shall next relate the Case of Francis Plumsted, an Ironmonger in the Minories, who was sworn against by Richard Foot and Thomas Bradshaw, Informers, for preaching at a Meeting in Devonshire-Buildings on the 25th of November 1683, and for being at another Meeting there on the 15th of the same

The Case of F. Plumsted.

* Meaning that he had taught School without a Licence from the Bishop.

LONDON, same Month, whereupon *Dudley North*, Justice, had issued Warrants of Distress for 30*l.* He deposited that Sum in the Hands of the Constable who came to make Distress, and appealed. His Appeal was prosecuted from Sessions to Sessions: At length, on the 11th of the Month called *August* 1684, Affidavit was made, that the said two Informers, within a Month after the Warrant was granted, came to a Neighbour's House, and sent for the said *Francis Plumsted*, and before Witnesses confessed, they had been drawn into that wicked Act, asked him Forgiveness, and offered to kneel down and beg his Pardon, owning then, and several Times after, that *they had done him Wrong, and sworn falsely against him.* He also proved by two Witnesses, present at the Meeting, that he did not preach there. Nevertheless, and though no Evidence appeared in Court against him, the Recorder endeavoured to invalidate the Testimony of his Witnesses, and so wrought upon the Jury, that they brought him in Guilty of being at the other Meeting, for which he was fined 10*l.* By which Fine, and the Charges of his Appeal, he computed the Damage by him sustained, to be at least 40*l.*

Distresses for
Meeting.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
About this Time also, <i>William Kent</i> Cheesemonger, in <i>Bishopsgate-street</i> , being fined on a false Information, appealed, but was cast on his Appeal to the Loss of	29	16	0
<i>William Ford</i> , of <i>Moorfields</i> , for being at a Meeting at <i>Devonshire-house</i> , had his Goods taken by Distress to the Value of	10	0	0
<i>John Deane</i> , of <i>Shoreditch</i> , Goods worth	18	5	0
<i>Thomas Gray</i> , of <i>Spittlefields</i> , Goods worth	9	15	0
<i>John Barnard</i> , of <i>Bishopsgate-street</i>	17	0	0
<i>Margaret Drinkall</i> , of the same, Widow, all her Household Goods worth	11	0	0
<i>John Fergus</i> , of <i>Whitechapel</i> , Cheesemonger	8	0	0
<i>John Marshall</i> , of <i>Petticoat-lane</i> , Smith	10	0	0
<i>Robert Chalkley</i> , Crape-weaver, Goods worth	10	0	0
	123	16	0

On the 7th of September, *John Heywood*, *Benjamin Hilton*, *Thomas Witham*, *Emanuel Low*, *John Harrison*, *John Bellers*, *John Hubbock*, *James Goodwin*, and *Mariabella Farmborough*, were taken from a Meeting in *White-hart-Court* by a Guard of Soldiers, and conducted to the *Exchange*, were they, together with *William Darby*, *Peter Langley*, *George Knight*, *William Bennet*, and *Thomas Barker jun.* who came to see them, were detained about seven Hours. After which they were all carried before the *Lord-Mayor*, who discharged *Thomas Barker*, being under sixteen Years of Age. Ten others of them gave Security to appear at Sessions, and *William Darby*, *Benjamin Hilton*, and *Thomas Witham*, were sent to *Wood-street-Counter*. At the Sessions, on the 6th of October, these thirteen appeared, and were indicted for a Riot. Those four who came to see their Friends in the *Exchange*, were acquitted by the Jury, but the other nine were brought in Guilty. *James Goodwin* was fined a Noble, *Mariabella Farmborough* ten Groats, and all the rest four Nobles each. *John Bellers* and *John Hubbock* had their Fines paid in Court, and were discharged; but the other seven were sent to *Newgate*, and continued there, viz. *William Darby* one Month, two Weeks, and six Days; *Emanuel Low* five Months, and one Week; *Thomas Witham* seven Months, and one Week; *Benjamin Hilton* seven Months, one Week, and five Days; *John Harrison* seven Months, three Weeks, and five Days; *Mariabella Farmborough*, four Months, three Weeks, and one Day; and *John Heywood* longer than any other of them.

Distresses.

About the same Time *William Chamberlain*, having been fined 5*l.* 5*s.* for being at a Meeting at *Westminster*, had Goods taken from him to the Value of

of 9*l*. Also *John Vaughton*, who was fined 40*l*. for Preaching, had taken from him by Warrant of *Thomas Jenner*, Recorder of *London*, dated the 30th of *September*, Goods of above 40*l*. Value. The Officer, *Ralph Linch*, a *Westminster* Constable, kept six Men in *Vaughton's* House all Night, and next Day loaded two Carts and two Carriages away to his own House, leaving not a Bed, Bolster, Pillow, Rugg, Blanket, Dish, nor Pot to drink in. Part of those Goods had been before seized for a former Fine of 20*l*. for Preaching, by one *John Fisher*, a Constable, who had sold them to *John Sumner*, but he had not taken them away. *Sumner* represented his Case to the Recorder, and obtained Restitution of the Goods which he had bought: He also purchased the rest of them for 8*l*. 12*s*. 6*d*. After which he sold so much of the Goods as to reimburse himself all he had disbursed, and returned the rest to the said *John Vaughton*.

LONDON,
&c.
1684.

Case of J.
Vaughton.

Edward Swift, for preaching in a Meeting at *Uxbridge*, was fined 20*l*. and *Michael Biddle*, for being at Meetings there, had his Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 11*l*. 15*s*.

On the 23d of *November* this Year, *William Gibson*, a zealous and courageous Sufferer in the Cause of Religion, was buried from a Meeting in *White-bart-Court*, and it was thought, that at least a Thousand of his Friends attended his Corps from thence to the Burying-ground, where it was interr'd with this Remark, *That it had been often beaten and imprisoned for Christ's Sake*.

W. Gibson's
Burial.

On the 30th of the same, the Constables of the *Bridge-ward* came to the Meeting in *White-bart-Court*, and took *John Brown*, *Thomas Sutton*, *William Warder*, *Joseph Smallbrook*, *Jacob Franklin*, *Matthew Edwards*, *Benjamin Wright*, and *George White*, whom they carried to *Sir James Edwards*, one of the City Justices, who committed them to *Newgate*. At the next Adjournment of the Quarter Sessions, they were indicted for a Riot, all of them fined, and sent back to *Newgate*.

Several sent
to Newgate.

At a Sessions for the City of *London*, held at *Guild-hall* on the 8th Day of *December* 1684, came on

Proceedings at
Guild-hall.

The TRIAL of *William Briggins*, *William Ingram*, *William Ellis*, *William Darby*, *William Moore*, *Walter Hoare*, *Edward Blake*, *Maurice Brown*, *Joseph Wright*, *Joseph Walker*, *Jonathan Clark*, *John Harris*, *John Beller*, *John Tyzack*, *Edward Ellis*, *Sarah Plumley*, *John Newton*, *John Clayton*, *Thomas Walker*, *Thomas Wynne*, *Thomas Terry*, *Daniel Dale*, *Edward Billing*, and *Richard Baker*.

Trial of 24
Others.

The Indictment was for a riotous Assembly with Force and Arms, &c.

They pleaded Not Guilty.

The Evidence witnessed, that they took them in *Angel-Court*, whereas the Indictment said, in *White-bart-Court*.

The Prisoners urged, that they were not in *White-bart-Court* that Day: which put the Court to a Stand.

But the Recorder said, *If they were met in the same Ward, 'tis sufficient*.

The Prisoners urged, that their Meeting in *Angel-Court* was not intentionally, but accidentally, being stopt there, when their Intention was to pass through.

One of the Prisoners asked, *What Sort of Arms they had?*

The Recorder said, *The Words Force and Arms were but Matter of Form*, and that if a Neighbour's Bullock broke into another Man's Ground, the Indictment for the Trespass must be laid, with Force and Arms.

The Prisoners desired that the Law might be produced, which explained what a Rout or Riot was, that the Jury might the better understand the Affair, and be the better able to bring in a just Verdict.

The Recorder promised to do so, but did not: But proceeded to sum up the Evidence, telling the Jury, that the Indictment was not vicious, though no Overt Act had been proved against the Prisoners. Against whom nothing indeed

LONDON,

82.

1684.

Length of
Information.Many others
indicted and
fined.Commitments
of many to
New-Prison.Seizure on
J. Elson.At Horshly-
down.

was proved, but that they were in a Place usually a Thoroughfare, where a Woman spake the Evidence knew not what.

The Jury however brought them all in Guilty of the Indictment.

One of the Prisoners said, We desire you would not send us to a bad Prison, where some of our Friends have been suffocated.

The Recorder answered, I can't build Prisons for you. You need not go to Prison unless you will. The Court has been moderate as to your Fines.

The Prisoners said, Whatever the Fines are, we cannot pay them, knowing we have injured no Man.

So they were committed to Newgate, being generally fined four Nobles each, and one of them, Joseph Wright, 5 l.

Several of them lay long in Newgate, viz. Thomas Walker one Month, and four Days; Edward Billings three Weeks; William Ellis three Weeks, and one Day; Richard Baker three Weeks; Joseph Walker three Months, three Weeks, and six Days; Sarah Plumley one Month, three Weeks, and three Days; Thomas Terry two Months, one Week, and three Days; Maurice Brown three Months, and five Days; Edward Ellis, John Harrison, John Fyzack, John Newton, and John Clayton, two Weeks, and six Days.

At the same Sessions also, George Phillips, Thomas Allison, William Guill, Lascels Metcalfe, Thomas Priffick, Edward Temple, William Jackson, John Tanner, Christopher Beale, Roger Livinz, Richard Graham, Jonathan Parsons, Thomas Bowles, Robert Southworth, John Potterem, Walter Hoare, Robert Brigg, Edward Pember, John Peacock, Ralph Johnson, Thomas Stivers, John Hornsmith, Thomas Hollingsworth, John Harman, John Hodgkins, Jacob Fuller, Anthony Pattison, John Clark, Francis Clark, Samuel Vass, and Samuel Blackham, were also indicted for being at an unlawful, tumultuous, and riotous Assembly, in White-bart-Court aforesaid, on the 12th of October then last past. They were brought in Guilty, and fined four Nobles each. Some of them had their Fines paid in Court, and were discharged, but those fourteen first above-named were committed to Newgate, of whom the first twelve continued Prisoners there more than two Months, Thomas Bowles above three Months, and Robert Southworth more than five Months.

Francis Stamper was fined by the Recorder 20 l. on an Information of preaching at a Meeting in Westbury-street, otherwise Wheeler-street, on the 28th of December; for which his Goods were taken worth 30 l. He entred his Appeal, but with so little Success, that his Loss for Fine and Charges amounted to 29 l. 9 s. 2 d.

On the 9th of December two Justices, Perry and Nightingale, at the Instigation of Esther Collingwood, a noted Informer, came off the Bench at Hick's-hall, went directly to the Peel Meeting, and took the Names of all or most of the Men that were met, and a great Part of the Women, and after two or three Hours Confinement in the Meeting-house, sent the following Persons to New-Prison, viz. Samuel Goodacre, John Plummer, Henry Dunbarr, William Leach, Samuel Bos, Peter Smith, Henry Groves, Peter Vincent, John Bell, Thomas Simms, Benjamin Goddard, Richard Goddard, James Jupe, Joseph Jones, John Tomson, Edward Bunn, Thomas Cobb, Samuel Everton, Daniel Eaves, John Padley, David Jones, Joseph Heaton, Giles Greenway, G. Jackman, Robert Haley, William Squire, William Richardson, Thomas Hill, Richard Jordan, Anthony Ellwood, John Ares, James Whitaker, John Bowles, and Matthew Warren; where most of them lay on the Stones and Boards about five Days, and then, without any legal Process discharged by the Authority of those who committed them.

A few Days before the Imprisonment of these Persons, John Elson, who dwelt in Part of the Peel Meeting-house, had a Seizure made of his Goods for three Meetings there, and the Prosecutors had brought Carts to load them away, when a Neighbour, in Compassion to him, bought them for 12 l. 14 s. and the Officers made to him a Bill of Sale of the same.

At Horshlydown, on the 12th of the Month called January, Anthony Tomkins, for a Fine of 20 l. for Preaching, suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of

of 1681. Also Robert Hasle, a poor Man, near eighty Years of Age, who sold Roots and Apples for his Living, was fined 10*l.* and by Warrant from Sir Thomas Jenner, Recorder, had his Goods seized, inventoried, and appraised, even to his Turnips, Carrots, Gingerbread, &c. the Whole amounting but to 2*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* The Constables reported his Case to the Recorder, in Hopes of moving him to Compassion; but he peremptorily ordered the Constable either to bring him that Money, or take away all the Goods. So the Constable paid down the 2*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* and took the poor Man's little Stock upon himself.

On the 25th of the same Month, a Justice and Bayliff came to *Horseshoe* Meeting, and took thence John Dodson, Philip Dunn, William Eben, John Webb, Job Bland, and Joshua Sparrow, and sent them to *Tooley-street-Counter*.

About the same Time Thomas Griffin, for going to Meetings at the *Park* in *Southwark*, had his Goods taken away by Distress, to the Value of 1*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*

At *Ratcliff* Meeting during this Winter, the Friends were frequently kept out in the Cold by a Guard of Soldiers, nevertheless they constantly held their Meetings in the Yard or Street, and for so doing several of them were fined, and had their Goods taken by Distress, viz.

From John Selwood, Peter Haile, James Braine, and	}	33	5	0
John Best, to the Value of				
Thomas Emson, Christian Indise, William Baasby,	}	2	7	0
and Mary Henly, to the Value of				
		35	12	0

Distresses were also made, for the same Meetings, on John Wickfield, Margaret Wynn, Robert Beard, John Sheffield, Thomas Fenn, Clement Taylor, Charity Nutt, Mary Whitmarsh, Daniel Chaplin, John Tricker, and Roger Hankin.

It happened about this Time that one John Lockwood, passing the Street, was apprehended by a Constable, and carried to a Tavern in the Borough of *Southwark*, where Esther Collingwood, and another Woman, made an Information before Justice Foster of his being at a Meeting; upon which the Justice sent him to Prison: But this not answering their Purpose, they went to the Recorder, and laid another Information before him against the same Person for the same Offence: He presently fined Lockwood 10*l.* and granted his Warrant to break open his Doors and make Distress. Shortly after it chanced that Lockwood and his Wife met the said two informing Women in the Street, and spake to them about this Affair: Whereupon the Women went to the Recorder, and swore that he assaulted them; for which the Recorder fined him ten Marks, though two Witnesses attested upon Oath, that his Behaviour toward them was civil and peaceable. The said Informers also indicted him at *Hick's-hall* as a common Barrettor. Thus, being countenanced by some Magistrates, these Informers proceeded to prey upon honest and peaceable People, without any Regard to Truth or Justice.

Hard was the Case of Henry Kendon, of *Basinghall-street*, *London*, who had a Distress made on his Goods for 50*l.* being the Contents of five several Warrants granted against him in one Day (viz. the 18th of the Month called *February*) by the Recorder. Kendon appealed, and was cast on three of those Convictions by the Evidence of a Woman, named Anne Smith, (alias *Bowles*) who was afterward proved to be perjured, for he had three substantial Witnesses to testify the Contrary to what she swore. The other two Appeals he gained; but the Whole of his Loss and Charges amounted to 72*l.* But Appeals in these Cases availed little; for when William Tilly had Distress made on his Goods for 20*l.* on an Information of his being at a Meeting at *Devonshire-house*, where he was not: He appealed; and the Informers, who had acknowledged themselves mistaken, would not appear: Nevertheless, through the Influence of the Recorder, he was cast on his Appeal, and lost his 20*l.* with additional Charges of 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

LONDON,
&c.
1684.

At Ratcliff.

Case of J.
Lockwood.

Hard Case of
H. Kendon.

LONDON,
&c.
1684.

Magistrates
Connivance.

M. Robinson.

W. Collard.

Fines and
Imprison-
ments.

Nor was it unusual with the Magistrates to connive at or neglect some gross Errors in proceeding against the Persons prosecuted, as appears by the following Instances, viz.

Michael Robinson, of *Michael's-lane*, had two Warrants granted against him by the Recorder, under the Name of *John Robinson*, to which Name the Witnesses had sworn. The Constable and Informer entering the House, and finding the Name to be wrong, went again, and got two Warrants for the same Offence, with the Name altered, and then came again and took what they could find in his House.

William Collard, of *George's Parish Southwark*, Cheesemonger, had his Goods seized by a Warrant with a wrong Name, and thereupon appealed, but the Jury, on Trial, though inclined to acquit him, being sent out three Times with threatening Words from the Bench, at last said, *They thought it must be for the King*; so that he lost his Cause with the additional Charges to the Value of about 17 l.

At a Sessions on the 14th of the Month called *January*, *Charles Banister*, *Aaron Underlich*, *Thomas Fidoe*, *Elizabeth Fullove*, *Elizabeth Grice*, *Elizabeth Lockworth*, and *Sarah Groom*, convicted of meeting together, were fined four Nobles each: And the said *Charles Banister* and *Aaron Underlich* were committed to *Newgate*.

	l.	s.	d.
About this Time also were taken			
From <i>Thomas Ewers</i> , of <i>Rotherbith</i> , Chandler, for being at religious Meetings, Goods worth	6	0	6
<i>Thomas Poor</i> , of <i>Mary Magdalen Bermondsey</i> , Grocer, to the Value of	1	19	4
<i>Walter Phillips</i> , of the <i>Park in Southwark</i> , on a false Information of his being at a Meeting where he was not, Goods worth	20	0	0
<i>John Goodwin</i> , of <i>Saviour's Parish</i>	5	18	6
<i>James Braithwaite</i> , of <i>Olaves Parish</i>	10	0	0
<i>Thomas Griffin</i> , Goods worth	6	10	0
<i>Henry Wilson</i> , of <i>Saviour's Parish</i> , Chandler	5	10	0
	55	18	4

Taken also by Distress of Goods, for Fines for absenting themselves from the publick Worship,

Distresses for
Absence from
the publick
Worship.

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>Anthony Tomkins</i> and <i>Thomas Haines</i> , Hatmakers in <i>Southwark</i>	23	11	0
<i>Gabriel Yarwood</i> and <i>John Broadgate</i> , of <i>Horslydown</i>	5	0	0
<i>Robert Pate</i> , of <i>George's Parish Southwark</i>	3	10	6
<i>David Saunders</i> , <i>James Braithwaite</i> , <i>Jeremy Howard</i> , <i>William Burtwell</i> and <i>John Horton</i> , of the Parish of <i>Olaves, Southwark</i>	18	6	2
	50	7	8

By the Recorder's Warrant, dated the 16th of *February* 1684, *James Beech*, for a Meeting in his House at *Westminster*, had his Goods taken away to the Value of

	l.	s.	d.
<i>William Oyles</i> , Goods worth	20	0	0
<i>John Skelton</i> , for a Meeting in the <i>Savoy</i>	10	0	0
<i>Henry Aires</i> , of <i>Old-street</i> , for being at two Meetings at the <i>Peel</i> , had his Goods taken, worth	6	14	0
<i>John Edge</i> , of <i>Andrew's Holborn</i> , Goods worth	30	0	0
<i>William Cooper</i> , of <i>Giles's, Cripplegate</i>	10	0	0
<i>Edward Swift</i>	3	3	4
	93	19	10

In

In this Year also, *Thomas Zachary* was imprisoned in *Wood-street-Counter* on two Executions for Tithes, at the Suit of *Dr. Fowler*, Priest of *Giles's*, *Cripple-gate*, and his Widow.

LONDON,
&c.
1684.

Richard Kirton, of *Kensington*, on two Executions for Tithe, at the Suit of *William Wiggan* Priest, had fourteen Cows and an Horse taken from him worth 53*l*.

Imprisonment
of *Thomas*
Zachary.

There were also this Year committed to the *Fleet Prison* for Tithes, *Jeremiah Rusb*, of *Horsbarn* in *Sussex*, at the Suit of *Thomas Thurlow*. And *Michael Pettit* and *John Pettit*, of *Wimbish* in *Essex*, at the Suit of *Edmund Heywood*.

Commitments
for Tithes.

Taken also in this Year, for refusing to defray the Charges of the *Militia*,

From *Richard Jordan*, *William Chamberlain*, *John Vaughton*, and *Thomas Frith*, Goods to the Value of

l. s. d.

8 5 0

Distresses for
the *Militia*.

John Marshall, *Philip Oyles*, and *William Holland*, of *Limehouse*, Goods worth

15 15 0

John Eaves, of *Shadwell*, Goods worth

1 7 6

John Marlow, of *Katbarine's*, Mariner

1 17 0

Ralph Johnson, of *Ludgate-street*, and *John Cooke*, of *Grace-church-street*, for Trophy Money, Goods worth

0 13 7

27 18 1

George Keith and *Daniel Munro* suffered five Months Imprisonment this Year in *Newgate* for refusing to Swear.

For refusing
to Swear.

Toward the Conclusion of this Year, *Jeremiah Waring* was taken out of a Meeting at the *Peel*, and by Justice *Smith*, of *Clerkenwel*, committed to *New-Prison* as a Rioter. Also *Mariabella Farmborough* and *Lydia Oades*, for preaching at the same Place, were committed to the same Prison.

The last Instance of this Year's Persecution is very severe: *Martha Halfey*, a Widow of *Jewen-street*, by a Warrant from the Recorder for 10*l*. had her House entred by *Christopher Smith*, Informer, and one *Platt*, a Constable, who set a Watchman at the Doors of her Shop and Chamber, took all they found in her House, spoiled most of her Shop-Goods, throwing them under their Feet, drank some, gave away some, and sold the rest, the Informer pocketing the Money. They kept seven Persons in Possession two Days together, saying, *They were glad of the Work*. They pulled down her Grates and Copper, and broke her Cistern, saying, *They matter'd not if they pulled down her House*. In the Warrant her Name was written *Margaret*, which being objected to the Distrainers, their Answer was, *No matter what was her Name: She was the Person convicted*. And the Constable after he had made Distress, said, *That he had sent the Warrant to the Recorder, and had the Name Margaret turned into Martha*: Thus were the most loose and profane Persons abetted by those in Authority, and encouraged, beyond the Bounds both of Law and Reason, to consume and destroy the Substance of the Religious and Conscientious, and to devour the Widow and the Fatherless.

ANNO 1685. After the Death of King *Charles the Second*, and the Accession of his Brother *James* to the Throne, the Prosecution of this People for their religious Dissent, though carried on with less Vehemency, did not cease, for in the Month called *April* this Year, *Henry Dogget*, of the Parish of *Clements-Danes*, was fined 16*l*. 18*s*. 4*d*. for Meeting, and suffered by Distress of Goods to the Value of 20*l*. 7*s*. 10*d*. Also *James Strutt* the Younger, of *Ratcliff*, fined 10*l*. for the same Cause, had his Household Goods taken away worth 20*l*. And *Thomas Scott*, of *Long-lane*, for a Fine of 10*l*. laid on him for being at the *Peel* Meeting, had taken from him by the Lord-Mayor's Warrant, Goods worth 17*l*.

Persecutions a
little abated.

Distresses.

LONDON,

&c.

1685.

Several in-
dicted at
Guild-hall,
and fined.

Various other
Sufferings.

Fines imposed.

Imprisonment
of R. Long-
worth and
J. Mason.

Distresses.

Boldness of a
Woman In-
former.

Appeal of
J. Williams
rejected.

Distresses at
Ratcliff.

At a Sessions at *Guild-hall*, on the 27th of the same Month, the following Persons, who had been taken some Time before at *Devonshire-house* Meeting, were indicted for a Riot, brought in Guilty, and fined, viz.

Robert Barrow, *John Danson*, and *Robert Ruddie*, each 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* *Richard Cook*, *Edward Ellis*, and *Nathanael East*, 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* each. *John Barnard* 5*l.* *Elizabeth Stamper* 13*s.* 4*d.* *John Marshall*, *Thomas Pantling*, *William Tilly*, *William Phillips*, *Samuel Howel*, *Isaac Jennings*, *Edward Patteson*, *Tobias Collet*, *Thomas Barber*, *Robert Costard*, *John Airey*, *John Cawdry*, and *William Camm*, 6*s.* 8*d.* each.

In the next Month *John Constantine*, of *Ratcliff-Cross*, for 20*l.* demanded on two Warrants for Meetings there, had Goods taken from him worth 28*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* And on the last Day of the same Month sixteen Persons were taken from *Devonshire-house* Meeting, and carried to the *Exchange*, and thence to *James Smith*, Lord-Mayor, who obliged them to appear next Day at Sessions, where they were tried for unlawfully assembling together, and fined as follows, viz.

Nathanael Brassley, 3*l.* *Nathanael East*, *Nathanael Bland*, *John Obee*, *William Camm*, *Lascels Metcalfe*, *Samuel Blackham*, *Thomas Clark*, *Benjamin Goddard*, *George Bowles*, and *William Nash*, 13*s.* 4*d.* each. *Elizabeth Fullove*, *Susanna Harris*, *Elizabeth Collet*, *Mary Luder*, and *Mary Burbank* 6*s.* 8*d.* each.

On the 14th of the Month called *June*, *Roger Longworth* was taken by Constables from a Meeting at *Grace-church-street*, and committed by the Lord-Mayor to *Newgate*. At the Sessions on the 13th of the next Month he was tried for a Riot, fined 6*s.* 8*d.* and sent back to the same Prison, where he lay about fifteen Weeks, and then was discharged by the Sheriffs. At the same Time *John Mason* was imprisoned in *Ludgate* on a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo* for not going to Church, and not receiving the Sacrament.

On the 14th of the Month called *July*, a Seizure was made of the Shop-Goods of *Joseph Toovey*, a Cheesemonger in *Aldersgate-street*, for a Fine of 10*l.* for being at a Meeting in *Devonshire-house*: And from *Thomas Cobb*, a Shoemaker in *Charter-house-Lane*, for a like Fine, were taken Goods worth 26*l.* 10*s.*

On the 15th, at the *Peel*, the Assembly, kept out of their Meeting-house by Officers, was held in the Street: Of which *Esther Collingwood*, an audacious Informer, acquainted the Justices then sitting at *Hick's-hall*. The Justices sent a Constable to fetch some of the Men, which he did; but the Woman confidently called out to the Bench, and told them, *There were a great many more*. So they ordered the Constables to go again, and they brought about twenty of them, whom the Justices fined 5*s.* each.

On the 17th of *September*, *John Williams*, of *Goswell-street*, being then in *Yorkshire*, had his Goods seized, upon an Information of his having been at a Meeting. The Neighbours, who knew the Case, and that the Information could not be true, paid his Fine, and entred an Appeal on his Behalf, but he not returning within the Time limited, his Appeal was rejected.

About the same Time, at *Ratcliff*, *John Lambert*, *John Bull*, *Thomas Cooper*, and *John Martin*, had their Goods distrained for Fines of 10*l.* each: And *John Marshall*, of *Limehouse*, had his Goods distrained to the Value of 6*l.* 10*s.*

On the 12th of *October*, *John Brainton*, *John Price*, *John Beckly*, *John Haley*, *Joseph Elderkin*, *Elias Paine*, and *William Lane*, who had been taken at a Meeting some Time before, were indicted at Sessions for a Riot, found Guilty, fined 6*s.* 8*d.* each, and committed to *Newgate*. Some of them had their Fines paid next Day, and were discharged, but *John Price*, *William Lane*, and *Elias Paine*, continued there about eleven Days, when the Sheriffs, on Representation of their Poverty, dismissed them. *Richard Perkins* also suffered by Distress 10*l.* for being at a Meeting.

On the 25th of *October*, at a Meeting in the *Park*, *Southwark*, *Samuel Fox* and *William Bingley* were taken preaching; of whose Apprehension and Usage, and of the Distress made on their Goods, an Account, given by themselves, is as follows, viz.

“ Samuel

“ *Samuel Fox* and *William Bingley* were taken from a peaceable Meeting
 “ of the People of God, met together in the Street near their Meeting-house
 “ in the *Park, Southwark*, to worship and serve Almighty God, the 25th of
 “ the Eighth Month 1685, by a Corporal and some other Soldiers under the
 “ Command of Captain *Manning*, who carried us away into our Meeting-
 “ house, which then they had made a *Guard-house*, and there kept us upon
 “ the Guard about seven Hours, without any Peace-Officer, or having any
 “ Certificate from any Justice of Peace, and for some Time they refused to
 “ let any Person come to us except the Soldiers, so much as to bring us a little
 “ Victuals or Drink. And when it began to be dark, the Corporal bestowed
 “ a great deal of Pains to seek after a Constable, and after some Time brought
 “ a Constable and the Beadle, who with the Corporal and some of the Sol-
 “ diers, had us to Justice *Reading's* House, but he not being within, they had
 “ us to Justice *Glover's*, but he being absent also, the Constable and the Soldiers
 “ agreed to let us go Home, upon Condition we would meet them another
 “ Time before the Justices, which we condescended to, not having done any
 “ thing we were ashamed or afraid to stand by: Which accordingly was
 “ done; and the Corporal gave Information against us to Justice *Reading*
 “ and Justice *Lee*, that we, with other Persons to above the Number of forty;
 “ were met in other Manner than according to the Liturgy of the Church
 “ of *England*, and had two Soldiers to Swear to his Information, who did
 “ Swear, and the Justices convicted each of us 20*l.* for no other Crime than
 “ declaring Christ Jesus, and exhorting People to live in the Fear of God, as
 “ becomes *Christians*, and to be mindful of the Teachings of the Grace of
 “ God, which teacheth to deny all Ungodliness and Worldly Lusts, and to
 “ live *righteously, soberly, and godly* in this present evil World. And the
 “ said Justices imposed a Fine of 20*l.* upon each of us: And a Certificate
 “ from Justice *Reading* was sent to Alderman *Turner* of *London*, who issued
 “ out a Warrant to distrain of our Goods and Chattels for the abovesaid
 “ Sums, and the Warrant was given into the Hands of a Constable near
 “ *Ludgate*, a Goldsmith, whose Name was *Duncomb Norris*. And the 9th
 “ of *November* 1685, *Duncomb Norris* Constable, and the Beadle of the Ward,
 “ came to *William Bingley's* Door with a short Staff under his Coat, and his
 “ Hatch being shut, *Duncomb Norris* leapt over it (giving his Fob-Staff to
 “ the Beadle to hold the While) without either declaring his Business, or
 “ demanding Entrance, and when he was come into the Shop, he commanded
 “ me [*viz. William Bingley*] to open my Hatch. I told him, *I would know*
 “ *for what first*: And he himself opened the Hatch to let the Beadle in, and
 “ then he told me, *he had a Warrant to distrain of my Goods for 20*l.* unless I*
 “ *would pay the Money*: I told him that *I should not pay the Money, not being*
 “ *conscious to my self of having done any Thing to deserve such a Fine*. And
 “ after some Discourse he said, *He would take 50*l.* worth of Goods for the 20*l.**
 “ and said farther, *He would not leave us worth three Pence in the House*;
 “ and he did not fall much short of doing what he said. And after some
 “ Time he seized of my Goods, so much as my Coal and Candles, and my
 “ Wife's wearing Clothes, having five or six in Company with him to his
 “ Assistance, and when he had lockt them up, he left two Watchmen in the
 “ House all Night, whose Names were *Samuel Green* and *Walkup Thorn*, and
 “ the next Day fetcht one of the City-Appraisers, whose Name is *Wicks*,
 “ living in *Warwick-lane*, and, as he said, appraised them to 23*l.* though
 “ really worth about 40*l.* But I could never have a Copy of the Inventory
 “ of my Goods, nor of the Appraisement, to this Day, and notwithstanding
 “ he had thus seized, he keeps Possession of my House, having given the Key
 “ of the Street Door to the Watchmen's keeping, who let whom they pleased
 “ into my House Night and Day, rude Fellows, who sat smoking and drink-
 “ ing by my Fire, almost at all Times of the Night, which might be a
 “ great Hurt to my Wife being big with Child, had not the Lord by his
 “ Power preserved her. And one of the Watchmen, a *shabby Fellow*, who
 “ formerly was a broken Fishmonger, and is now an Hanger-on to *Newgate*
 “ and

LONDON,
 &c.
 1685:

Account of the
 hard Usage of
 S. Fox and
 W. Bingley.

LONDON,
&c.
1685.

Warrant
against Mary
White.

“and *Ludgate*, carried the Key of my Street-Door abroad with him, and what Use
“he made of it abroad I know not: He might, for ought I know, get another
“made by it, the Consequence of which may be of great Detriment to me.
“The Constable brought several Persons into my House to buy my Goods,
“still keeping Possession of my House, and said to some that watcht in the
“House, *he could turn us out of the House*. And the 12th Instant he com-
“manded a Company of Porters, and began to carry away my Goods, and
“tore down my Bedsted and Curtains, and took away my Bed and Bedding,
“lodging them in the Lord St. *John's*, or Earl of *Bolingbrooke's* House, having
“Leave given them by one *Tysoe*, who has the Care of the House; and came
“down to the Kitchen, where we had a Shoulder of Mutton at the Fire for
“our Dinner, and they would scarce suffer the Meat to be roasted for Eager-
“ness of taking away the Spit and the Dripping-pan under it, and took away
“all the Dishes, that we were forced to send to a Neighbour's House to
“borrow to put our Meat in; neither did they leave us either Chair or Stool
“to sit on, nor Table to set our Meat on: And before our Servants had done
“their Dinner, they took away the Knives from them with which they should
“have cut their Meat, and tore down the Range, throwing the Fire about, and
“took it away, with all the Materials belonging to it, and also took away
“Goods which were neither in the Inventory, nor appraised at all, to the
“Value of 8 or 9*l.* and carried some of them to the Constable's House, and sold
“my Coals, near five Chaldron, to one Captain *Simmons*, who keeps the Dog-
“Tavern near *Ludgate* for 4*l.* He came into my House to buy them before
“they were removed. And though the Constable thus cleared my House,
“and carried away my Goods, yet did he keep Possession of it, and Watch-
“men in it, till the 13th Day at Night; and I, finding my self aggrieved,
“have entred my * Appeal before Justice *Reading*, which is yet depending.
“*Samuel Fox*, living in the same House with *William Bingley*, for the Fine
“of 20*l.* imposed on him as aforesaid, and by Warrant from Alderman
“*Turner*, had his Goods taken out of his Chamber, and the Door broken
“open by the aforesaid *Duncomb Norris*, Constable, in his Absence, the 12th
“Day of *November* 1685. And the said *Duncomb* appraised them at 13*l.* 1*s.*
“and the next Day sold them for 13*l.*

“ WILLIAM BINGLEY.
“ SAMUEL FOX.”

The foregoing Account gives a just Description of the Violence and Oppression, which the Officers, and those whom they employed on these Occasions, too frequently exercised without Controul. And when the Sufferers complained to the Magistrates of these gross Abuses, they seldom found any Redress.

On the 1st of *November*, *Thomas Webb*, for being at a Meeting in *Westbury-street* alias *Wheeler-street*, suffered Distress of his Goods.

In the same Month *Mary White*, of *Spittlefields*, was much oppressed by the Execution of the following Warrant, viz.

“ Middlesex *js.*

“ To all Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor, Constables, Head-
“ boroughs, and all other his Majesty's Officers of the Peace
“ within the said County, and all others whom these Presents
“ may concern.

Warrant
against Mary
White.

“ WHEREAS it appeareth to me by the Oaths of two credible
“ Witnesses, that on the 13th Day of this Instant *November*, there was
“ an unlawful Assembly, Meeting, and Conventicle, held at a certain House
“ in

* We do not find that he obtained any Relief by his Appealing: But was the greater Sufferer by the additional Charge he was put to thereby.

“ in *Quakers-street* in the Parish of *Stepney*, in the County aforesaid, wherein
 “ were above five Persons besides those of the Family, all above the Age of
 “ sixteen Years, and Subjects of this Realm, amongst whom was *Mary White*,
 “ of the Parish and County aforesaid : And an unknown Person did then and
 “ there take upon himself to preach and teach to the said unlawful Assembly,
 “ there gathered together under Colour and Pretence of Exercise of Religion,
 “ in other Manner than according to the Liturgy and Practice of the Church
 “ of *England*, contrary to an Act of Parliament in that Case made and pro-
 “ vided, by which Offence the said unknown Preacher hath forfeited the
 “ Penalty of twenty Pounds, who being unknown as aforesaid, the Penalty by
 “ him forfeited ought of Consequence to be levied by the said Act upon the
 “ Hearers and Persons then present, so that not above ten Pounds be levied
 “ upon any one Person, for any one Offence. For which Cause I have im-
 “ posed the Sum of five Shillings upon the said *Mary White* for her own Offence,
 “ and the farther Sum of nine Pounds fifteen Shillings for Part of the unknown
 “ Preacher's Offence, as the said Act doth direct.

LONDON,
 &c.
 1685.

“ These are therefore in his Majesty's Name strictly to charge and com-
 “ mand you, and every of you, forthwith upon Sight hereof, to levy the
 “ several Sums of five Shillings, and nine Pounds fifteen Shillings, in all ten
 “ Pounds, of lawful Money of *England*, or so much as can be found on the
 “ Goods and Chattels of the said *Mary White*, by Way of Distress and Sale
 “ thereof, rendring the Overplus to the said *Mary White*, if any shall be.
 “ And if you are refused Entrance into the said House, Shop, Cellar, Chamber,
 “ or any *Room* or *Rooms* in the Possession of the said *Mary White*, that then
 “ after you have declared your Business, you may by Virtue of the said Act
 “ break open and enter the same for the better levying the aforesaid Penalties :
 “ And the Money so levied you are forthwith to bring to me, to be distributed
 “ or otherwise disposed of as the said Act doth direct : And for your so doing
 “ this shall be your Warrant. Hereof fail not at your Peril. Given under
 “ my Hand and Seal this 23d Day of *November*, Anno Regni Jacobi secundi
 “ nunc Angliæ primo. Annoq; Dom. 1685.

“ W. M. CLEAVE.”

We shall next transcribe

“ A Copy of an Information against *William Candler*, and others,
 “ as follows, viz.

“ THIS Information is at the Prosecution of Capt. *George Hilton*.
 “ *Eleanor Shaftoe* and *Frances Scolthorp* make Oath, that on the 29th of
 “ *November* 1685, in the Forenoon of the same Day, there was an unlawful
 “ Assembly and Conventicle, held in a certain Meeting-house, situate in the
 “ Parish of *St. Bennet Grace-church*, in the City of *London*, wherein were more
 “ than ten Persons, all above the Age of sixteen Years, besides those of the
 “ same Family, and Subjects of this Realm, under Colour and Pretence of
 “ Exercise of Religion in other Manner than according to the Liturgy of the
 “ Church of *England*, in which Conventicle or unlawful Assembly there were
 “ five several Persons, all unknown, who did then and there take upon them-
 “ selves to teach and preach to the said unlawful Assembly, and *Thomas Farm-*
 “ *borough*, a Cane-Chair-maker in *St. Paul's Church-yard*, * *Andrew Anthorpos*,
 “ Linen-draper in *Cheapside*, *William Candler*, and *Joshua Kinch*, both Fish-
 “ mongers of *New-Fish-street-Hill*, and *Abraham Godwin*, Broad-weaver in
 “ *Spittlefields* in *Middlesex*, were present at the said unlawful Assembly.

Copy of an
 Information.

“ ELLINOR SHAFTOE, her Mark.

“ FRANCES SCOLTHORP, her Mark.”

* A Mistake, which should have been *Benjamin Antrobus*.

LONDON,
&c.
1685.

Commitment
of many to
Prison.

What farther Proceſs was made on this Information doth not appear; for ſuch Kind of Proſecutions began now to be diſcountenanced at Court, and the Juſtices became far more moderate than formerly, as appears by the following Inſtance:

On the 6th of December, the following Perſons, being at a Meeting in Long-Acre, were convicted by two Juſtices of the Peace, and ſent to New-Prison, but were diſcharged the next Day by the Bench of Juſtices at Hick's-hall, namely, Thomas Firth, Elizabeth Pebody, Robert Halley and his Wife, Thomas Cobb, William Vaughan, John Clark, Elizabeth Parker, William Flower, Elizabeth Taylor, Ruth Studdler, George Welch, William Hullſide, William Elliott, Jeremy Waring, Jane Smith, Daniel Sands, Silveſter Marſhall, Mary Grabam, Thomas Zachary, Sarah Harris, Anne Beere, Suſanna Hawkes, Elizabeth Gibſon, Humpbry Coaſt, Elizabeth Hanſon, Margery Green, Thomas Parkins, Benjamin Lunne, Martha Fiſher, Elizabeth Peacock, Anne Duke, Elizabeth Smith, William Jacob, Sarah Lipington, Margaret Roſindale, Suſanna Emerson, and Katharine Woodward.

But notwithstanding the Purpoſe of the King, and the general Diſpoſition of the Juſtices, yet the Laws being not repealed, ſome Magiſtrates continued forward to execute them, particularly William Cleave, a Middleſex Juſtice, who having iſſued his Warrant for diſtraining the Goods of one Thomas Mincks for being at Meetings, and the Conſtable not ſpeedily executing the ſame, he granted another Warrant to diſtrain the Conſtable's Goods for Neglect of his Duty, a Copy of which here follows, viz.

“ Middleſex ſs.

“ To all Churchwardens, Overſeers of the Poor, Conſtables, Head-
“ boroughs, and all other his Maſteſty's Officers of the Peace within
“ the County of Middleſex, and all others whom it may concern.

Warrant for
diſtraining
the Goods of
a Conſtable.

“ FORASMUCH as Edward Beaumont, one of the Headboroughs of
“ Stebbonbeatb, alias Stepney, in the County of Middleſex, ſtands legally
“ convicted upon Oath before me, for that he having a Warrant of Diſtreſs
“ by me granted for levying the Sum of ten Pounds on the Goods and Chattels
“ of Thomas Mincks, for the Offence therein mentioned againſt an Act of
“ Parliament made in the 22d Year of his late Maſteſty King Charles the
“ Second, hath reſuſed and neglected to execute the ſaid Warrant, and to do
“ his Duty therein, having connived with the ſaid Thomas Mincks, by giving
“ him or his Family Notice there was a Warrant againſt him, whereby he hath
“ forfeited the Sum of five Pounds according to the ſaid Act. Theſe are
“ therefore in his Maſteſty's Name ſtrictly to charge and command you, and
“ every of you, forthwith upon Sight hereof, to levy the Sum of five Pounds,
“ of lawful Money of England, on the Goods and Chattels of the ſaid Ed-
“ ward Beaumont, rendring the Overplus if any ſhall be, reaſonable Charges
“ firſt deducted, which ſaid Money ſo levied you are forthwith to bring to
“ me, to be diſtributed, or otherwiſe diſpoſed of, as the ſaid Act doth direct.
“ And for your ſo doing this ſhall be your Warrant. Given under my Hand
“ and Seal this 22d Day of January, Anno rni. Dni. nri. Jacobi Secundi nunc
“ Regis Angliæ, &c. primo.

“ W. M. CLEAVE.”

Not long before this, by a Warrant from the ſame Juſtice, for a Fine of 10 l. one Nelson, Churchwarden of Ratcliff, with a kind of Vagabond Informer named Lupton, came to the Houſe of John Sellwood, a Brewer, to make Diſtreſs, but he being from Home, his Wife and Maid deſired them to ſtay till he might be ſent for, but they reſuſed. The Churchwarden ordered the Beadle to fetch a Sledge, with Screws, and an Iron Crow, with which the Informer broke open the Door, and entred the Houſe, to the terrifying the Woman and her

her Children: After which they took an Inventory of what was in the House, which they appraised at 7*l*. 16*s*. there being but little Goods left, for this was the seventh Time that the same Person's Goods had been seized for his Constancy in meeting to worship God according to his Conscience, for which his Christian Testimony he cheerfully suffered the Loss of that which by honest Industry and hard Labour, through the Blessing of God, he had acquired.

LONDON,
22.
1685.

On the 11th of the Month called February, Thomas Scotton, John Hedges, William Teaguy, Peter Kin, Richard Harris, Mary Knight, John Clark, John Whitehead, Edward Brush, and John Bellers, were taken from Devonshire-house Meeting by Constables, and carried before Sir Robert Jefferies, Lord-Mayor, where some of them were bailed, and others sent to the Poultry-Counter. At the next Sessions they were indicted for a Riot, and fined 13*s*. 4*d*. each. Sarah Casimire and John Jones were also tried for the same Cause; the Former was acquitted, and the Latter fined 13*s*. 4*d*.

On the 15th of the Month called March, after many Representations of the Sufferings of this People to him made, the King was pleased to issue his Royal Mandate as follows, viz.

“ **W**HEREAS we are given to understand that several of our Subjects, commonly called Quakers, in the Schedules hereunto annexed, are either convicted, or upon Process in Order to their Conviction of Premunire for Not Swearing, or indicted, or presented for not coming to Church, or convicted for the same, and several of them have been returned into our Exchequer, and in Charge for 20*l*. per Menssem, according to the Statutes in that Case provided; and some of them lie in Prison upon Writs de Excommunicato capiendo, and other Processess for the Causes aforesaid, and we being willing that our said Subjects, and other of our Subjects commonly called Quakers, who are or have been prosecuted, indicted, convicted, or imprisoned for any the Causes aforesaid, should receive the full Benefit of our General Pardon, which we have been pleased to grant to our loving Subjects by our Royal Proclamation, with all possible Ease to them: Our Will and Pleasure is, and we do hereby authorize, will, and require you to cause such of our Subjects commonly called Quakers, who are in Prison for any the Causes aforesaid, to be forthwith discharged out of Prison, and forthwith to stop and discharge, or cause to be discharged, by giving your Consent on our Behalf, all Fines, Forfeitures, or Sums of Money charged upon any of our Subjects, commonly called Quakers, for not coming to Church, or set upon them upon any Process for the same, as also all Processess, Indictments, Presentments, and Convictions, for any of the said Causes, by entering Noli Prosequi, or otherwise as you shall judge necessary, for rendring that our Pardon most effectual and beneficial for our said Subjects. And for your so doing this shall be your Warrant.

The King's
Mandate.

“ Given at our Court at Whitehall the 15th Day of March 1685-6, in the second Year of our Reign.

“ By his Majesty's Command.

To our trusty and Well-beloved
our Attorney-General.

“ SUNDERLAND, P.”

In Obedience to the King's Mandate the Attorney-General issued his Warrant, viz.

“ **W**HEREAS the Persons hereafter named, viz. Benjamin Antrobus, Thomas Harlow, John Reading, Thomas Scott, John Tysoe, John Thorp, Thomas Thackery, and Thomas Witchel, who are commonly called Quakers, are now detained in your Custody upon Writs de Excommunicato capiendo: And whereas his Majesty has signified his Pleasure by Warrant under his

The Attorney-
General's
Warrant.

“ Royal

LONDON, " Royal Sign Manual, and Privy Signet, dated the 15th of March 1685-6,
 &c. " to me directed: That his Subjects commonly called *Quakers*, prosecuted,
 1685. " indicted, convicted, or imprisoned upon Process of *Premunire* for not Swear-
 " ing, or not coming to Church, and some of them imprisoned upon Writs
 " *de Excommunicato capiendo*, should have the full Benefit of his Majesty's
 " General Pardon, dated the 10th of March 1685. And by the same Warrant
 " his Majesty hath authorized and required me to cause, that such of his Sub-
 " jects commonly called *Quakers*, who are imprisoned upon any the Causes
 " aforefaid, should be forthwith discharged out of Prison. These are there-
 " fore to will and require you upon Sight hereof, to discharge the Persons
 " above-named out of your Custody, and permit them to go at large, and
 " for so doing this shall be your Warrant. Given under my Hand this 20th
 " Day of March 1685.

To the Sheriffs of London, or
 their respective Deputies.

" R. SAWYER."

Release of
 Prisoners.

Accordingly those Persons were set at Liberty from a long Confinement, for Benjamin Antrobus had been in Prison two Years, six Months, one Week, and five Days; John Reading one Year, eight Months, two Weeks, and five Days; Thomas Scott two Years, nine Months, and two Weeks; John Tysoe two Years, nine Months, two Weeks, and six Days; John Thorp two Years, and five Days; Thomas Witchell two Years, five Months, one Week, and six Days; and Thomas Thackery three Years, and three Weeks.

By similar Warrants from the Attorney-General were also discharged out of the KING'S BENCH, Samuel Bayly, William Butcher, William Phillips, Robert Bridgman, Nathanael Bland, Nathanael Brassey, Richard Butcher, George Barr, John Beachly, Richard Cripps, Francis Camfield, William Ingram, Richard Cannon, Robert Dyer, John Dew, Daniel Deale, John Field, Thomas Fuller, John Greenway, John Harrison, John Heywood, Henry Honour, Richard Howard, Walter Hoare, Walter Myers, Thomas Lounds, William Mackel, John Moore, Cornelius Mason, John Mason, Thomas Oades, John Osgood, Alexander Parker, Clement Plumsted, Dennis Skinner, Zachary Shepherd, Walter Shaller, Jonas Smith, Thomas Tibby, William Tillett, Samuel Vause, Joseph Wright, George Watt, and John West. Also William Itbell of Bristol, and William Phillips. And out of the MARSHALSEA, John Withall.

In this Year were taken by Distress for Tithes and Maintenance of the Parish Priests,

		l.	s.	d.
Distresses for Priest's De- mands.	From Thomas Lounds, of Bull and Mouth-street, Goods worth	1	18	8
	John Stichbury, of Saviour's, Southwark	0	5	4½
	Henry Wilson, of the same	1	19	0
	Ralph Johnson, of Ludgate-street, Joyner	1	18	0
	John Cook, of Grace-church-street, Brasier	7	11	2
		13	12	2½

George Bradford, of Bush-lane, Glazier, at the Suit of William Bassett, Priest of Swithin's Parish, for a Demand of 16 s. had his Household Goods taken away to a much greater Value, of which the Distainers rendred no Account. When the said George Bradford was cited to appear before the Lord-Mayor, James Smith, he delivered to him a Paper in Writing, which being pithy and concise we here insert, viz.

" REASONS given by George Bradford for not paying Tithes.

G. Bradford's
 Reasons for
 not paying
 Tithes.

" I. I CANNOT pay them as Tithes, because they belonged only to the Jews, not Christians; Christ having put an End to that Priesthood: For which I refer to the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews.

" 2. Not

“ 2. Not as *Ministers Maintenance* : For Christ gave no such Commission to his Ministers, to compel Maintenance, or to make Bargains with the People for Preaching. His Commission was, *Freely ye have received, freely give*. Therefore those that force Maintenance from People, do quite contrary to Christ's Command ; therefore are not his Disciples, much less his Ministers. But to force Maintenance from those who have not hired them, nor own their Doctrine, is much more an unrighteous Thing : And should I pay it, I should make my self an *Hypocrite* : And I am certain I cannot be a *Christian* and an *Hypocrite* at the same Time.

“ For these Reasons, and many more which at present I omit, I cannot pay their Demands, and not out of any sinister Ends, as to save my Money ; for the best Way to save my Money would be to pay it at the first Demand, and not suffer Distress, which makes it, as Matters have been ordered, five Times the Charge of the Demand.

“ Wherefore I desire thee, as thou tenderest thy Peace with God, not to grant Warrants for People's Houses to be entred, and Families ruined, as many have been, and will quickly be my Lot, if such Prosecutions, or rather Persecutions, do continue.”

With this plain Man's honest Reasons for his *Testimony* against compulsive Maintenance of Men called Ministers, we conclude our Narrative of the present Year 1685, and proceed to the next, viz.

ANNO 1686. In the Month called *April* this Year, *Thomas Barker*, *William Smith*, *Thomas Lovett*, and *William Chandler*, who had been a long Time Prisoners in *Newgate* on Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*, were discharged thence by the Attorney-General's Warrant ; also *John Mason* by the same Means was released from *Ludgate*.

On the 18th of the same Month, certain Informers, with two Constables, *Rice* and *Taylor*, came to a Meeting at *Devonshire-house* : Diverse Persons who were there, not *Quakers*, upon their Coming, would have gone out, but the Constables and Informers shut the Doors. Some of the People prest forward and got out, and the Informers struck several of them, and some of them resisted. In the Scuffle *Christopher Smith*, one of the Informers, had his Head broke. This, though done by they knew not whom, was imputed to the Friends there assembled, who had no hand in it, but continued all of them quietly within. However, the Informers, under pretext of Resistance, sent for Soldiers to the *Exchange*, who brought away *Thomas Robinson*, whom the Informers had before pulled down from Preaching, and several others, and carried them before the Lord-Mayor, who sent them to Prison by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

“ *London* fs.

“ **R** E C E I V E into your Custody the Bodies of *Thomas Robinson*, *David Shepberd*, *Thomas Zachary*, *James Kent*, *John Marloe*, *John Horner*, *Thomas Hollingworth*, *Walter Shewler*, *John Webb*, *Adam Holt*, *Roger Scarborough*, and *Henry Bradley*, herewith sent you, being charged by *Christopher Smith* and *Arthur Clayton*, to have this Day made a riotous and unlawful Assembly in *Devonshire-house-Square*, *London*, in the suppressing whereof the said *Christopher Smith* was dangerously wounded : And for Want of Sureties for their Behaviour and personal Appearance at next Sessions of the Peace to be held for the City of *London* and Liberties : And them safely keep until they shall be from thence legally discharged. And for so doing this shall be your Warrant. Given under my Hand and Seal the 18th Day of *April*, Anno Domini 1686.

To the Keeper of the
Poultry-Counter.

“ **ROBERT JEFFERY, Mayor.**”

LONDON,
&c.
1685.

Discharge of
Prisoners.

Mittimus of
12 Persons to
the Poultry-
Counter.

LONDON.

8c.

1686.

Indicted for
a Riot.

Defence.

Remarks on
the Recorder's Charge
to the Jury.9 Persons re-
leased from
Newgate.Names of
many under
Prosecutions
in the Ec-
clesiastical
Courts dis-
charged by
K. James's
Commission.

At a Sessions at Guild-hall, on the 17th of the next Month, they were indicted for a Riot, &c. wherein Christopher Smith was dangerously wounded, &c.

Thomas Robinson, in his Defence, shewed, that he was all the Time of the Disturbance under Confinement, where the Constable had put him, and consequently could have no Hand therein. It was also proved by the Informer's own Confession, that his Head was broke out of Doors in the Yard, and therefore it was insisted on, that those who were holding their Meeting within the House could not do it. The Recorder, in summing up the Evidence, endeavoured to incense the Jury against the Meeting, telling them, *That if six Men came into an House and made a Riot, all Persons in the House were guilty of that Riot.* Upon which Thomas Robinson craving Leave to speak a few Words, the Recorder granted it; and Robinson spake thus, *If six Men come to my House, and go to the Door, and beat one another, am I guilty of that Riot?* At which one of the Counsellors began to laugh, and so did the Court round, looking upon the Recorder. The Jury however brought them in Guilty; and Thomas Robinson was fined 5*l.* and the rest 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* each; and most of them were sent back to Prison for Non-payment.

On the 2d of the Month called June were discharged from their Imprisonment in Newgate, for Fines, by Warrant from the Attorney-General, Francis Stamper, who had been Prisoner two Years, four Months, two Weeks, and three Days; Richard Whitpain one Year, nine Months, and one Day; Thomas Mincks two Years, two Months, and one Day; William Teaguy, Peter Kin, Richard Harris, John Clark, and John Whitehead, one Month, two Weeks, and five Days; also John James one Month, one Week, and four Days.

By the King's Commission to the Attorney-General, not only many in Prison were discharged, but the Imprisonment of many others was timely prevented, who had been under Prosecutions in the Ecclesiastical Courts for not repairing to their respective Parish-Churches, and other like Causes tending to Excommunications and Imprisonment. To mention all the particular Instances of this Kind would be too tedious, wherefore we shall content our selves with only reciting the Names of such Persons, as in the City of London, and County of Middlesex, were relieved from the apparent Danger attending such vexatious Processes commenced against them, viz.

In L O N D O N:

Richard Aldworth, John Barnard, Thomas Baker, George Bradford, Thomas Braine, George Barr, Edward Brush, Robert Bridgman, William Brookbank, Job Bolton, John Beckly, Samuel Bolton, Tobias Collet, Hezekiah Carter, Thomas Cobb, Thomas Dry, Walter Enoch, John Ellis, Robert East, John Edridge, Henry Ford, Edward Goodwin, John Harwood, Richard Hanson, John Hall and his Wife, John Harrison, James Humpbreys, Isaac Hemmings, John Light, John Marsh, Nathanael Marks, John Newton, John Obey, Edward Pierce, John Peacock, Daniel Skinner, Walter Shaller, Francis Stamper, John Thompson, William Vaston, William Walker, Moses West, Thomas Walker, and Richard Whitpain.

In M I D D L E S E X:

Patience Ashfield, Thomas Adams, William Banister, John Brooman, John Bocket, James Brown, Edward Biddle, Edward Brook, John Bowater, William Brice, Richard Chair and his Wife, Daniel Cooke and Sarah his Wife, Jonathan Cooke, Stephen Cater, Thomas Chandler, Francis Dove, Giles Elcner, Thomas Flake, John French and his Wife, Thomas Harlow, Samuel Fish, Anne Gold, William Gatley, Elizabeth Grobn, George Gibb, Joseph Guppy, John Hallifield, Stephen Hubersty, Samuel Hodge, Mary Henler, Richard Hawkes, Richard Heale and Mary his Wife, John Hudson and Anne his Wife, John Hider, Joseph Heale, James Lowry and his Wife, William Lodington, Thomas Lovett, Degory Marshall, Thomas Moulder, Hugh Mosely, Joseph North, Christopher Newham, James Nelham, Thomas Pocock, Peter Prince, Francis Plumsted, Gerard Roberts and his Wife, William Richardson and Hannab his Wife, John Richards, Richard

Richard Spot and his Wife, *John Sheffield*, *James Strutt*, *Robert Scotting*, *Edward Swift* and *Anne* his Wife, *Henry Saul* and *Elizabeth* his Wife, *William Smith*, *Francis Smith*, *Joseph Taylor*, *Thomas Farmborough*, *John Vaughton*, *Mary White*, *Ezekiel Wooley*, *Thomas Somerfield*, *John Winter*, *Nathanael Wells*, *William West*, *Christopher Ward*, and *Joseph Yates*.

LONDON,
8cc.
1686.

Beside the Persons before-named, several others were by the Attorney-General relieved from Prosecutions depending against them in the *Exchequer* and *Crown-Office*, on the Statute for 20*l.* per Month, namely, *William Chamberlain*, *Richard Collett*, *Thomas Underwood*, *William Lowthwaite*, *Samuel Hallfield*, *Thomas Prigg*, and *Samuel Waldenfield*.

In the Ex-
chequer and
Crown-
Office.

On the 1st of *December* this Year, *George Whitehead* and *Gilbert Latey*, being admitted to the King, represented to him the Hardships which had befallen their Friends, in regard to their Meeting-houses at the *Park* in *Southwark*, and at the *Savoy* in the *Strand*.

The Case of the *Park* Meeting-house was thus :

About the Month called *May* 1685, the Soldiers came to the Meeting-house, and made Part of it a Guard-house : They did great Spoil and Damage by pulling down Pales, digging up and cutting down Trees, carrying away and burning them, with the Wainscoting and Benches : They carried away one of the outer Doors, and many of the Casements. Afterward, when they were drawn out to the Camp, they left the House open to any Body : Upon which *John Potter*, the Owner of it, entred again, and made up the outer Door, and did some other Repairs, and had a Survey of the Damages done, which amounted to above 40*l.*

Case of the
Park Meet-
ing-house,

The Soldiers, returning again from Camp, possessed themselves of the Place in the following Manner, viz.

On the 22d of *October* 1686, a Quarter-Master belonging to Colonel *Hailes's* Regiment, came to the Chambers of the said *John Potter's* Tenants, and demanded Entrance, which being denied, the Quarter-Master, with the Help of Soldiers, broke in, handed away their Goods, and turned out three aged Women to another House ; and when they had taken Possession of the Meeting-house, and Rooms below, they pulled down the Galleries, and made a Brick-Wall cross the lower Rooms, with many other Alterations, as if they intended to have the sole and perpetual Possession to themselves, having made a Place for Prayers, (or a Mass-house) at one End inclosed from the rest by the said Wall. *John Potter*, the Owner, several Times shewed to the Colonel his Lease of, and Title to the Place : But it availed nothing ; he and his Soldiers, regarding neither Law nor Equity, kept Possession, and still continued there.

The Damage sustained by their long Detention of his Property, the Spoil done to the Place, and the Waste and Destruction they had made, was computed to amount to about 150*l.*

At the *Savoy* also, Friends were kept out of their Meeting-house many Weeks by Guards of Soldiers who had taken Possession of the Place.

and of the
Savoy Meet-
ing.

The Representation made by *George Whitehead* and *Gilbert Latey* of these Matters to the King, and of the Unreasonableness and Illegality of the Proceedings, took such Effect, that within a few Weeks after he caused both those Meeting-houses to be restored.

Meeting-
houses re-
stored.

In this Year *William Chandler*, of *Fish-street-hill*, for a Claim of 3*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* for Dr. *Ivory*, Priest of *Magnes* and *Margarets*, had his Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 10*l.* And *Ralph Johnson*, of *Martin's Ludgate*, for 25*s.* demanded by Dr. *Pelling*, suffered by Distress to the Amount of 2*l.* 12*s.*

Distresses.

In the same Year *Richard Kirton*, of *Kensington*, for a Demand of 22*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* for Tithe, had taken from him by an Execution at the Suit of *William Wiggan* Priest, three Horses and two Cows worth 30*l.* 10*s.* He had also taken from him by Tithe-farmers, in Corn and Grain, to the Value of 31*l.* 10*s.*

Prosecutions
of R. Kirton,

Likewise *William Kirton*, of *Kensington*, for a Demand of 18*l.* for two Years Tithe, had taken from him by an Execution, at the Suit of the same Priest, three Horses and three Cows worth 23*l.* 5*s.*

and of W.
Kirton.

Taken

LONDON,
&c.
1686.

Taken also from *William Phillips*, of *Pudding-lane*, for 4*l.* 10*s.* demanded by the Parish-Priest, Goods worth 6*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* From *Henry Doggett*, of *Black-Friars*, for 12*s.* 8*d.* demanded, Goods valued at 1*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* Also *Hannab Perry*, of *Houndsditch*, was imprisoned in *Wood-street-Counter* for Tithes, at the Suit of an Impropiator of the Tithes of *Bishopsgate* Parish.

In this Year also, several Distresses were made by Warrants from some of the Lieutenancy for refusing to contribute to the Charges of the *Militia*, by which were taken from *Christopher Jacobs*, *Thomas Mincks*, *John Stokes*, *Thomas Barker*, *Thomas Witham*, *Simon Marshall*, and *John Robinson*, Goods to the Value of 7*l.* 6*s.*

Freedom re-
fused for lack
of Swearing.

Peculiar was the Case of *Joseph Tomson* and *Richard Ewers*, who having served an Apprenticeship, and being legally intitled to their Freedom of the City, because they could not take an Oath, were denied their rightful Privilege of Admission, though they offered to give Bond for performing the Contents of what was usually sworn to.

Meetings held
in Peace.

Before the Conclusion of this Year, the Fury of Persecution, as to religious Assemblies, was much abated, and the Meetings were generally held in Peace. The Storm had continued many Years with little Intermission, and the Courage and Constancy of those who passed through it was very remarkable, particularly those who frequently exposed themselves, at the Hazard of their Estates, Liberties, and Lives, for the Sake of their publick Testimony to the Truth, by preaching in the Assemblies for Worship at *London*, esteeming no Worldly Interest too near or dear to part with, that they might be found in the faithful Discharge of their Duty in that Respect. Wherefore in Justice to their Memory we shall close this Year with a List of the Names of such of them, both Men and Women, as at present occur to our Notice, viz.

M E N.

Names of
some worthy
and valiant
Sufferers and
Testimony-
Bearers.

Richard Almond, *Benjamin Antrobus*, *John Brown*, *John Butcher*, *Nathanael Ball*, *William Bingley*, *Jasper Batt*, *Samuel Bolton*, *Thomas Budd*, *Nathanael Brassey*, *Robert Barclay*, *James Claypoole*, *Stephen Crisp*, *Joseph Cadle*, *Nathanael Duckett*, *John Edridge*, *Benjamin Freeman*, *Samuel Fox*, *John Field*, *Thomas Floyd*, *Robert Langborne*, *Robert Lodge*, *Samuel Goodacre*, *George Fox*, *William Gibson*, *James Goodwin*, *Roger Langworth*, *Thomas Green*, *Nicholas Gates*, *Theophilus Green*, *Thomas Gilpin*, *Edmund Harrison*, *Charles Harris*, *Patrick Livingstone*, *Ralph Johnson*, *Richard James*, *Jonathan Johnson*, *John Kilborne*, *Daniel Monro*, *James Martin*, *Gilbert Latey*, *John Miles*, *Richard Needham*, *John Newton*, *John Heywood*, *William Penn*, *Clement Plumsted*, *James Parke*, *Thomas Robinson*, *John Rallett*, *Joseph Rogers*, *William Stovy*, *Ambrose Rigg*, *Richard Steaton*, *Francis Stamper*, *Anthony Tomkins*, *John Tysoe*, *Thomas Sandilands*, *John Taylor*, *John Vaughton*, *George Whitehead*, *William Tileby*, *Samuel Waldenfield*, *Robert Yore*, and *George Watt*.

W O M E N.

Elizabeth Bathurst, *Esther Biddle*, *Elizabeth Brassey*, *Lucretia Cooke*, *Joane Cooke*, *Susanna Dew*, *Mary Edwards*, *Mariabella Farmborough*, *Elizabeth Fuller*, *Anne Gold*, *Hannab Marshall*, *Anne North*, *Lydia Oades*, *Elizabeth Ollive*, *Mary Plumsted*, *Mary Peacock*, *Elizabeth Stamper*, *Rebecca Travers*, *Joane Vokins*, *Isabel Yeoman*, and *Mary Wheeler*.

These Women were of excellent Endowments, adorned with all the Virtues of that Sex, and very serviceable to the Church in the Office of the Ministry, for which they were peculiarly gifted, being esteemed by their Brethren as Fellow-helpers in the Work of the Gospel of Christ, and not unlike the Deaconesses in the first Ages of Christianity.

Distresses for
Priests Main-
tenance.

ANNO 1687. Taken for Priests Maintenance, by Warrant of *John Peacock* Lord-Mayor, from *Edward Haristwell*, for 1*l.* 2*s.* demanded, Goods worth 1*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* And from *John Edridge*, for 2*l.* 5*s.* demanded, Goods worth 3*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*

Taken

CHAP. 25. of the People called QUAKERS.

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Taken also from <i>Richard Kirton</i> , of <i>Kensington</i> , for Tithe, Corn and Hay worth	33	0	0
And from <i>William Kirton</i> , of the same Place, Corn and Hay, to the Value of	22	19	0
	55	19	0

LONDON,
&c.
1687.
Distresses in
London.

And for refusing to pay toward the Charges of the <i>Militia</i> , were taken	l.	s.	d.
From <i>Samuel Wilkinson</i> , of <i>Pelham-street</i> , Goods worth	1	15	10
<i>Robert Chalkley</i> , of <i>Booth-street</i>	1	11	2
<i>John Pantling</i> and <i>Thomas Powel</i>	3	16	9
	7	2	11

ANNO 1688. Taken in this Year, for Tithe, from the aforefaid <i>Richard Kirton</i> and <i>William Kirton</i> , Corn and Hay worth	52	3	cd.
From <i>John Starr</i> , of <i>Brides Parish</i> , for 6s. 4d. de- manded, Goods worth	0	8	7½
And from <i>John Clark</i> , of the same, for 5s. 6d. Goods worth	0	11	10
	53	3	5½

Taken also for the Trained-Bands by Warrants from the Lieutenancy,	l.	s.	d.
From <i>John Horner</i> , <i>John Stokes</i> , <i>John Robertson</i> , <i>Thomas Mincks</i> , and <i>Thomas Baker</i> , Goods worth	6	16	2
<i>Thomas Witham</i> , <i>Simon Marshall</i> , <i>Jonathan Stan- more</i> , <i>Robert Pate</i> , and <i>William Collard</i>	9	17	0
<i>John Haddon</i> , <i>Thomas Baker</i> , <i>Thomas Mincks</i> , <i>John Lee</i> , and <i>Simon Marshall</i>	9	8	5
<i>William Robinson</i> , <i>Thomas Witham</i> , <i>Gideon Culcup</i> , and <i>John Plant</i>	9	2	0
	35	3	7

Note, Some of these Persons had their Goods seized at several Times in this Year.

On the 17th of the Month called *May* this Year, *Daniel Wharley* was discharged from Prison, where he had been several Years for refusing to answer upon Oath in *Chancery*.

ANNO 1689. Taken for Tithes, and Priest's Maintenance,	l.	s.	d.
From <i>Daniel Quare</i> , of <i>Exchange-Alley</i> , Plate worth	3	0	11½
<i>William Sproson</i> , of <i>Saviour's</i> , <i>Southwark</i> , Goods worth	0	12	6
<i>Richard Needham</i>	0	7	6
<i>Richard Baker</i> , of <i>Black-friars</i>	0	18	3
<i>Ralph Johnson</i> , of <i>Martin's Ludgate</i>	5	11	10
<i>George Barr</i>	7	9	0
<i>Richard Kirton</i> and <i>William Kirton</i> , of <i>Kensington</i> , Corn and Hay worth	46	10	0
	64	10	0½

LONDON,

1690.

More Dis-
tresses in
London.

ANNO 1690. Taken for the Priests of their respective Parishes,

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>Lascels Metcalf</i> , of <i>Grace-church-street</i> , Goods worth	1	18	1½
<i>Michael Lovel</i> , of the same	4	7	0
<i>Daniel Dale</i> , of the <i>Old-Change</i>	1	14	8
<i>Elizabeth Casimire</i> , of <i>Nagshead-Court</i>	5	12	7
<i>William Bingley</i> , of <i>Cheapside</i>	1	5	0
	14	17	4½

Having thus gone through the great Variety of Sufferings undergone in this City and County, within the Period of Time assigned us, we proceed to relate the Occurrences of like Nature, which the same People were exercised with in the County of *Norfolk*.

C H A P. XXVI.

NORFOLK,
1654.

N O R F O L K.

ANNO 1654.

Imprisonment
of R. Hub-
berthorn.

THE first suffering Case which occurs to our Notice in this County, was that of *Richard Hubbertorn*, who for his Christian Concern to exhort the People assembled in the Steeple-house at *Wymondham*, after the Priest had ended his Sermon, was committed to *Bridewell*, and from thence the next Day sent to *Norwich Castle*, and kept there till Sessions. On his Appearance there, the Cause of his Commitment was dropt, and the Justices took Occasion from his present Appearing before them with his Hat on, to charge him with a Contempt of Authority, and under that Pretence recommitted him to Prison, where he lay a long Time after.

In the Winter of the same Year, *James Lancaster*, for warning the People in the Streets of *Norwich*, was committed to Prison by the following *Mittimus*.

“*Norwich* is.Mittimus of
J. Lancaster
to Norwich
Goal.

“**T**HESE are to require you to take into your Custody *James Lancaster* herewith sent, who lately came to this City from *North-Seal* in the Island of *Walney* in *Lancashire*, and can shew no lawful Cause for his Coming hither, but only to declare the Truth, as he calls it, and did in the publick Market-place in this City gather together a great Company of rude and idle People, to the Disturbance of the Peace of this City, and him safely keep untill he shall be delivered thence according to Law: And hereof fail not.
“The 9th of *December* 1654.

To Mr. Edward Shent, Keeper
of the Common Goal in the
said City.

“**THOMAS TOFTE, Mayor.**”

With him was also committed *Christopher Atkinson*, by a *Mittimus* of the same Date and Direction as follows, viz.

Norwich

Norwich Is.

THESE are to require you to take into your Custody the Body of Christopher Atkinson herewith sent, who lately came into this City from Kendal in Westmorland, and can give no Account of his Livelihood, nor shew any lawful Cause of his Coming hither, but only to declare the Truth, as he calls it.

“THOMAS TOTTE, Mayor.”

About the same Time George Whitehead, for uttering a Christian Exhortation to the People in Peter's Steeple-house in Norwich, after the Priest had done, was sent to the same Prison, where not complying with the Goaler's extravagant Demands for Lodging, they * lay in their Clothes on the Floor: At the next Sessions for that City, James Lancaster and George Whitehead were discharged by the Court, but still detained by the Goaler, under Pretence of Fees, several Weeks longer, till the Goaler died; and his Widow, of a more merciful Disposition, set them at Liberty. Thus they, by their Patience and Meekness, gave approved Tokens of their Innocence: While Atkinson, being of a more rough Temper, for uttering some bitter Expressions against his Opposers, was detained longer in Prison by Actions laid against him by a Priest and an Attorney, and he giving way to Heat and Anger, fell from the Tenderness of his first Convincement, and ministred Occasion to the Adversaries to speak reproachfully.

Not long after this, Thomas Simonds, for asking a Priest, after his Sermon, a serious Question respecting his Doctrine, was committed to Norwich Castle: And George Whitehead, going to visit him and another of his Friends under Confinement, was by Order of the Mayor detained there about three Weeks, without any Cause, but the arbitrary Will and Pleasure of that Magistrate. About the same Time Dorothy Waugh, for testifying against Sin in the Market-place at Norwich, was kept Prisoner in the City Goal near a Quarter of a Year.

ANNO 1655. Thomas Bond, being at an Independent Meeting in Great-Yarmouth, after their Preacher had done, found a Necessity upon him of speaking to the Assembly, which he began to do, when one of their Elders, or Deacons, interrupted him, by thrusting him down over an high Seat, to the endangering of his Life, and after that dragged him into the Yard; when attempting again to speak to the People, he was taken and sent to Prison, where he lay among Felons, and the Goaler would seldom admit any of his Friends either to visit or relieve him.

Richard Clayton and Elizabeth Court, being under the like Concern, and endeavouring to discharge their Duty, by exhorting the People in the Steeple-house at Wymondham, after the Priest had concluded his Service, were, for their Good-will, ill requited with Imprisonment. Also Edward Warne, for attempting the same good Office to a Congregation met at Walsfield, was committed to Norwich Castle, and at the next Sessions fined 5*l*. Likewise Alice Day, for the same Cause, suffered a long Imprisonment at Norwich.

ANNO 1656. Robert Jacob, of Wymondham, was chosen Constable when he was so old and infirm, that in Reason and Justice he should have been excused from that Office, nevertheless he was summoned before the Justices, and because he would not Swear to execute an Office he was not fit for, was committed to Prison. The same Person shortly after was again committed to Prison for refusing to pay Tithes, and died in Prison for such his conscientious Refusal, when he was eighty Years of Age. In this Year also John Goddard, of Rockland, being summoned to serve on a Jury at the Quarter Sessions, appeared there, but refusing to be sworn, was fined 5*l*. and for not paying it was sent to Prison.

William

NORFOLK.

1654.

Mittimus of C. Atkinson.

G. Whitehead sent to Prison.

Remarks on the different Tempers of the Sufferers.

Commitment of many to Prison.

Imprisonment and other Abuses of T. Bond.

Diverse other Imprisonments.

Death of R. Jacob in Prison, being 80 Years of Age.

Imprisonment of Others.

* This was no small Hardship, especially to George Whitehead, then a Youth of about eighteen Years of Age, and tenderly educated.

NORFOLK.
1656.

A charitable
Instance.

Other Impri-
sonments.

Distresses.

Distresses and
Imprisonment
for Tithes.

A Letter re-
lating the bar-
barous Usage
of the People
at Norwich.

William King, on the same Occasion, also refusing to Swear, was fined 40 s. *Thomas Dormer*, of *Tassingham*, refusing to take an Oath when required at Sessions, was by the Justices fined 5 s. One of the Bench, who knew the Man's Conversation and Integrity, declared his Dislike of what they had done, and to prevent his Neighbour's Imprisonment paid the Fine in Court.

John Clifton and *Henry Lone*, were taken out of a religious Meeting, and committed to Prison without any Breach of Law assigned. About the same Time *John Allen*, of *Lannis*, for having a Meeting at his House, was committed to Prison, and when at Sessions that Cause of his Commitment appeared insufficient, the Justices, from his appearing before them with his Hat on, took Occasion against him, and required Sureties for his good Behaviour, which he refusing to comply with, was continued in Prison.

In this Year also several Persons, for frivolous Demands of Tithes, amounting but to 12 s. had their Goods taken away to the Value of 4 l.

ANNO 1657. In this Year, for Tithes demanded of several Persons amounting to 19 l. 9 s. 5 d. Goods were taken by Distress to the Value of 51 l. 16 s. 6 d. *William Barber* was prosecuted in the *Exchequer* for Tithes, and in September committed to *Norwich Castle*, where he continued a long Time. *Henry Ward*, of *Helgay*, had Goods taken from him for Tithes, to the Value of 13 l. And *Christopher Good*, of *Markham*, to the Value of 5 l.

ANNO 1658. Taken from several Persons in this County, for 18 l. 19 s. claimed for Tithes, Goods to the Value of 42 l. 13 s. 6 d.

ANNO 1659. *Abraham Howes*, *John Goddard*, and *Henry Goddard*, were imprisoned in *Norwich Castle*, on an *Exchequer* Process, though the Priest, their Prosecutor, had entred the Lands of the two Latter, and taken what Corn he pleased; and for a Claim of 5 l. for Tithes, had taken from the first of them two Cows worth 11 l.

ANNO 1660. The barbarous and inhuman Treatment which this People usually met with at their religious Meetings in *Norwich*, is expressed in the following Letter sent to the Mayor and Aldermen of that City, bearing Date,

"The 2d of the Fourth Month called June 1660.

"Friends,

"UPON the First-day of the Week, we being met in our usual Meeting-place, together with other Friends, to worship the Lord in Spirit and Truth, and to wait for Refreshment to our Souls from his Presence, there came into our Meeting-place one *Christopher Bennet*, Apprentice to *Zachary Mabew* in *Austin's* Parish, *John Sadler* in *Paul's* Parish, and *John Salmon*, Servant to the Brewhouse without *Pickthorp-Gate*; these Persons being chief Setters on of others, came amongst us, and with much Cruelty smiting, punching, and pulling some of us by the Arms to hale us out of the Meeting, with such Violence as if they would have torn our Limbs from off our Bodies; and with Rigour pushing us from one to another, dragging about, and affronting us with many unbecoming Actions, and with cruel Mockings; and by these Persons we have long suffered much Cruelty, and by others whom they animate and encourage, whose Names are unknown to us, who neither fearing the Law nor the Magistrates, have broke open the Gate of *Joseph Whitlock*, and have broke a new Bar and two Locks from off it, one after another, and have broken a Lock of an inner Gate, and the First-day of this Week broke open one of his Doors, and threw another off the Hinges, their usual Custom being to disturb our Meetings, with throwing of Stones, breaking the Windows, which is to the Value of forty Foot of Glass, thumping us on the Back and Breast without Mercy, dragging some most inhumanly by the Hair of the Head, and spitting in our Faces, abusing both Men and Women, with other violent and unseemly Actions unfit to be mentioned, also with throwing of Fire, and drawing Blood several Times, and several of them getting upon the Table, have violently thrown themselves down upon the Heads of Men and Women, and have taken the Mire out of the Streets,

"and

“ and have thrown it at the Friends, some of them holding the Maid of the
 “ House, whilst others daubed her Face with Gore and Dung, so as the Skin
 “ of her Face could hardly be seen. We doubt not but some of you, to whose
 “ Ear the Cry of these Cruelties are come, are grieved that such Wickedness
 “ should be committed, and the Evil-doers not terrified, nor the Peaceable and
 “ Harmless protected in this City, but that the Authority and Magistracy
 “ thereof should be slighted as it is, and disregarded by a Company of wicked
 “ lewd Fellows of the baser Sort, such as assaulted the House of *Jason*, for so
 “ they behave themselves as such, whose presumptuous lawless Minds (if they
 “ should have an Opportunity) would not stick to act the like Cruelty even upon
 “ your selves; therefore we thought meet to give in these Persons Names
 “ as some of the chief Disturbers, and are ready upon their Examination to
 “ give Testimony concerning their Carriages, that they may be dealt with as
 “ you in Justice shall see fit for such Offenders, we have suffered much long
 “ by them and others they encourage, who have sundry Times drew the Blood,
 “ and rent the Garments of several, smote and much abused us, who, if we
 “ were Offenders, we know are not to suffer by them, but by you who are
 “ over the People to do them Justice, before whom it hath been offered
 “ them by several of our Friends to appear, if they had any Evil to lay to
 “ their Charge. Many more Abuses we have suffered which we could mention,
 “ but that they be too tedious, these being sufficient to let you understand the
 “ Cruelty and Wickedness by which these People were acted, that so they
 “ may be restrained, the Parliament having shewed their Moderation in re-
 “ straining those in some Measure, which are thus rude in *London*.

“ Signed by JOHN FULLER, EDWARD MONK,
 “ JOHN BACKHOUSE, ISAAC MARRIOTT,
 “ TOBIAS ROE, THOMAS BUDDERY,
 “ ROBERT GREEN, EDWARD MASON,
 “ WILLIAM MASSAM, SAMUEL DUNCOMB.”

The foregoing Letter was presented and read to the Magistrates as directed, but they were so far from regarding the just Complaints therein contained, that they sent the Bearer of it to Prison, though under another Pretence, viz. his having put up some Papers, giving Notice of a Meeting appointed, and inviting the People to it: Under this Colour they required Sureties for his good Behaviour, and for refusing to be so bound, committed him to Goal.

*The Bearer
sent to Prison.*

On the 15th of the Month called *January* this Year, the Constables of *Emneth*, without producing any Warrant, took *Thomas Laycock* and *Richard Saunders* out of their Beds by Night, and next Day carried them before a Justice, who tendered them the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing to take it sent them to Prison at *Lyn*, where they were kept ten Days till Sessions, and then removed to *Norwich* Castle, whither one *Robert Turner* accompanied them, in order to bring back their Horses; but he going to visit his Friends confined in the Castle, the Mayor sent an Officer for him, and because he would not take the Oaths, sent him to the City Goal. On the same Day *St. John Buck* was taken out of his own House by a Constable and Watchmen, and carried before the Mayor of *Norwich*, who, though there appeared no reasonable Cause to suspect his being disaffected to the Government, yet because he would not Swear, committed him to Prison.

Several imprisoned for refusing to swear.

On the 17th, at the Quarter Sessions, *Thomas Bayly* and *John Rack* were fined 40s. each for refusing to Swear, and for not paying that Fine were sent to Prison. On the 20th, a Justice of the Peace, with armed Attendants, came to a Meeting at *Erpingham*, and took from thence *John Allen*, *John Soame*, and *Henry Miller*, whom he committed to Prison. At the same Time he ordered the Women to be dragged out of the Meeting by Force, with this Threat, *You were warned once before; this is the second Time, and if you meet the third Time, we are for killing and slaying.* On the same Day *John Watson*, *Bartholomew*

Many Imprisonments, and other Abuses.

Threats of a Justice to the Women.

Sundry imprisoned for refusing to swear.

Bartholomew Flegg, and *William Sherwood*, taken out of a Meeting at *Wyndham*, were sent to Goal for refusing the Oath; as were also *Michael Shipp* and *Edward Vineyard*, whom they took out of the Meeting. And on the same Day the High-Constable, with Horsemen and Footmen armed with Halberts, Pistols, Swords, Pitchforks, Clubs, and Hedgestakes, came to the Meeting at *Pulham*, and in Time of Prayer rudely dragged out *John Laurence*, *Joseph Laurence*, *William Barber*, *George Whitehead*, and others, whom they carried next Day before a Justice, who sent them to Prison. And on that Day also, *Henry Kettle jun.*, *Anna Kettle*, *Elizabeth Winter*, *Mary Goddard*, *John Cockeril*, *Edward Rack*, *Susan Taylor*, *Robert Elding*, *Margaret Elding*, *Elizabeth Day*, *Joseph Whitlock*, *Edmund Garbham*, and *Andrew Bucknam*, most of whom were taken, by a Captain and ten armed Men with Swords drawn, out of their Meeting at *Kilversstone*, were committed to *Thetford Goal*.

On the same Day, the Mayor and Recorder of *Norwich* tendred the Oath of Allegiance to *Edward Monk*, *Thomas Buddery*, *John Fuller*, *William Massam*, *Edward Mason*, *John Rust*, *David Read*, *William May*, *Samuel Duncomb*, and *Robert Turner*, and for refusing to take it committed them to Prison, though several of them were poor Men, whose Wives and Children suffered at Home for Want of Necessaries, which they used to be supplied with by their Labour.

On the 25th, *Henry Ward*, of *Helgay*, was taken out of his Bed early in the Morning, and *Peter Gill* from his Labour, and both of them, for refusing to Swear, sent to Prison. And on the 26th, *John Wymer*, of *Machum*, going homeward from *Yarmouth Market*, was taken by the Watch, kept Prisoner that Night, and next Day had the Oath of Allegiance tendred him by two Justices, who also tendred the same to his Wife who came to visit him, and sent them together to *Norwich Castle*. And on the same Day *William Farmer*, for the same Cause, was sent to the same Prison, having been taken from his own House at *Cripplesham*.

On the 27th, *John Hewett*, *William King*, *Thomas King*, *Robert King*, *John Parding*, *Henry Peed*, *Thomas Barrett*, *John Watson*, and *Matthew Bacon*, being met at the House of *James King* in *North-Walsbam*, the High-Constable, attended by Persons armed with Swords, Halberts, and other Weapons, rushed violently in, dragged them out, and carried them before Justice *Rant*, who refused to act against them; so they were kept that Night in an Alehouse, and next Morning carried before two other Justices, who committed them to the Castle at *Norwich*.

Others for not paying Tithes.

In this Year also, *Matthew King* of *North-Walsbam*, *William Tilney* of *Aylsham*, *Henry Halls* the Elder, of *Ashbee*, *Benjamin Lines* of *Coulton*, and *Robert Tillet* of *Harlyn*, were committed to Prison in *Norwich Castle* for refusing to pay Tithes.

Indictments.

ANNO 1661. At a Sessions at *King's-Lyn*, in October, Bills of Indictment were preferred against *Bartholomew Hewlet*, *Christopher Goad*, and *Edward Case*, for not repairing to their respective Parish-Churches to hear divine Service, and for not finding Sureties to appear to answer those Indictments, they were committed to Prison. And in the same Year, *Anthony Oakley* of *Ellingham*, *Thomas Tubbin* of *Claxton*, and *John Wynne* of *Markham*, for refusing to pay Tithes, were imprisoned in the Castle at *Norwich*. And *Robert Tillet* of *Harlyn*, for the same Cause, suffered Distress of two Cows worth 6l. 10s.

Imprisonments and Distresses for Tithes.

Unhealthy Confinement of many at Yarmouth.

ANNO 1662. *William Hadkins*, *William Thirton*, *John Hastings*, *William Mead*, *Isaac Mills*, *Robert Camplin*, *George Bragg*, *Thomas Lawes*, *William Bennett*, *William Ward*, *Henry Downing*, *Joane Heard*, *Sarah Meade*, *Joane Castell*, *Margaret Haylett*, *Magdalen Fuller*, *Anne Stubbs*, and *Elizabeth Clements*, were taken out of a Meeting at *Yarmouth*, and sent to Prison, where they were kept in a Dungeon without convenient Food, Lodging, or other Necessaries, nor had they any Place of Ease, except a Tub standing in the Room, the Smell of which was very offensive, nor were they permitted to empty it, till by special Application to the Bayliffs of the Town, that Favour was granted them: After which they were removed into an upper Room, and on the 17th of

of September, at the Sessions, the Women were set at Liberty, and not long after the Recorder discharged the Men also, there having been no regular Process against them. The Bayliffs displeased at their Release, presently committed them again by a new *Mittimus*, of which when they desired a Copy, it was denied them.

NORFOLK.
1662.

On the 3th of November, *Joseph Whitlock*, *Edward Monk*, and *David Read*, were taken at a Meeting in *Joseph Whitlock's* House by an Officer with Soldiers, and a short Time after, *Robert Green*, *Tobias Roe*, *William May*, and *Samuel Duncumb*, coming thither with the same Intent of Meeting, were also apprehended, and presently after them, *Isaac Merritt*, *Thomas Buddery*, *Daniel Day*, *John Dey*, and *Edward Mason*; they were all carried before the Deputy-Lieutenants, who committed them to *Norwich Castle*, where three of them were lockt down all Night, in a very frosty Season, in the lowest and worst Dungeon in the Prison: After fourteen Days Confinement they were brought to Trial at the Sessions, but it not appearing to the Jury that they were a Number sufficient to make their Assembly unlawful when the Soldiers took the first of them, they were acquitted.

Several imprisoned in *Norwich Castle*.

3 Put into the *Dungeon*.

In the same Year, *Abraham Hewes* of *Hockham*, and *William King* of *Suffield*, suffered Imprisonment for their Testimony against paying Tithes.

Imprisonments for Tithes.

ANNO 1663. On the 7th of the Month called February, *Edward Shooter*, *Robert Turner*, *John Tuxley*, *Thomas Waller*, *Joseph Whitworth*, *John Haslewood*, *Joseph Townsend*, *Anthony Preston*, and *Benjamin Townsend*, were taken out of a Meeting at *Lyn* by Soldiers, who after they had exposed them for some Hours to the Derision of the Rabble, carried them before the Mayor, who, for their refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, sent them to Prison, where they were kept a long Time, lodging on the bare Boards without any Fire, and when Straw was brought them to lie on, it was taken away and given to the Felons. Of these Persons, so used, the first named six were Inhabitants of that Town, and the other three, Traders who came to the *Mart*, one of whom had a Family at *Lincoln*, another dwelt beyond *Northampton*, and the third, *Benjamin Townsend*, was a Man of large Dealings, who suffered much in his Trade by this Confinement, having six Pack-horses standing at great Charges at an Inn, and much Goods, some of which were greatly damaged. Under this cruel Confinement they continued above five Months, and then

Hard Imprisonment at *Lyn*.

ANNO 1664. At a Sessions held on the 27th of the Month called July, the Oath was again tendered them in open Court, and upon their Refusal to take it, an Indictment was drawn up against them, but their Trial put off, and they were again committed to Prison, where leaving them to struggle with the Hardships of their Captivity, we proceed to relate the very hard Case of eight others of their Brethren, Sufferers at *Yarmouth*, as written and signed by themselves, viz.

Recommitted at Sessions.

“**W**E whose Names are underwritten, coming to *Great-Yarmouth* in *Norfolk*, about our lawful Occasions, (and one being put into that Harbour by contrary Wind, when he was returning to his Habitation in *Holland*) we were upon the First-day of the Week met together in a peaceable Manner, and not in the least to the Terror of the People, or to the Disturbance of the Peace of the Town or Kingdom; and having enjoyed our Meeting peaceably, and being in a Readiness to depart, at the very Instant of Time came in a Lieutenant with a Constable, together with diverse Soldiers and others that accompanied them, and they took the Names of most of the Men and Women that were present, but as for us that were Strangers, they carried us to the Main-Guard, where they kept us that Night, and the next Day we were carried before the Bayliffs of the Town, to whom we gave a good Account of the Occasion of our Coming to Town, and of our Determination of departing out of the Town so soon as our Business was dispatched, and that the Wind served (for five of us belonged to one Vessel that was

Hard Case of 8 Prisoners at *Yarmouth*.

“come

NORFOLK.
1664.

" come to the Town to take in Red-Herrings for the Straits) but whatsoever
" we said in our Defence, it seemed to be little regarded by them.
" And when they had examined us a little they produced their grand Snare,
" to wit, the Oath of Allegiance, which for Conscience-sake we could not
" take, nor any other Oath whatsoever, whereupon they committed us to the
" Common Goal, with a strict Order (as we were told several Times) that
" none of our Friends should be permitted to come at us, nor that no Manner
" of Provision should be brought in unto us, and the Goaler being ready to
" observe their Order, we were kept near upon eight Weeks so close, that in
" all that Time the Door was not once opened by the Goaler's Order (that
" we know of) to let in any Provision to us, and we being shut up in an high
" Chamber, were therefore so much the more straitned. And when the Bayliffs
" were spoken to concerning the Goaler's severe Dealing with us, they or one
" of them replied, that *They would carry him out in what he did, and that we*
" *should not have any Thing but what we had of the Goaler.* Howbeit, after-
" ward we had so much Privilege as to have our Victuals handed in at the
" Door. We have now remained here above twenty three Weeks, and have
" not yet been brought to any farther Trial. And we could say much of their
" Cruelty towards us since we have been committed, but the Lord hath given
" us Patience to bear the same for his Truth's Sake, in which we remain
" innocent Sufferers.

Yarmouth, the 14th of the
Seventh Month 1664.

" ROBERT RAINE, EDWARD ANDREWS,
" JAMES CROW, STEPHEN NICHOLS,
" JOHN RENT, EDWARD COXERE,
" WILLIAM CATON, JOHN HOBSON."

Leaving them in Prison, where the farther Time of their Continuance is uncertain, we return to those nine Persons, already mentioned in this and the preceding Year to be continued Prisoners at Lyn, where,

Sentence of
Præmunire
passed on 8
Persons at
Lyn.

ANNO 1665. They were brought to Trial at the Sessions, held on the 2d of the Month called April, upon an Indictment for refusing the Oath of Allegiance, when after a short Examination their Answers were recorded *pro Confesso*, and the dreadful Sentence of *Præmunire* was pronounced against them, under which they, cheerfully suffering for their Christian Testimony, returned to Prison, where the cruel Goaler debarred them of the usual Liberty of Prisoners, for he closed up the Windows of their Room with Boards, so depriving them of Light to work by, and in a great Measure, of Air, insomuch that one of them, *Edward Shooter*, through the Hardship of that close Confinement, died there. This Goaler, *Ralph Emerton*, was a Person of a rugged, morose, and mischievous Disposition, of which the following Instance is recorded, viz. As *Anthony Preston*, one of the Prisoners, was standing behind the heavy thick Door of the Goal, the Goaler came and threw the Door with Violence against him, intending to have crushed him between that and a Stone Wall, against which he stood; but was providentially prevented by his sudden perceiving it, and breaking with his Hands the Force of a Blow which might have destroyed him. To those who saw the malicious Purpose of the Goaler therein, it was very observable, and made a deep Impression on their Minds, when, but a few Hours after, they saw the Contriver of so much Harm to an innocent Man, suddenly taken ill, and dead in his Chair.

Death of
E. Shooter.

Sudden Death
of a Goaler.

16 Imprisoned
at Norwich.

About this Time *Thomas Buddery, Edward Mason, William May, William Waymer, John DeFrance, Samuel Duncomb, Edward Monk, Peter Hewett, Tobias Roe, Robert Green, William Bennet, David Read, Edmund Sewel, William Fallowfield, Peter Gill, and John Rust*, were imprisoned at Norwich, having been taken at their religious Meetings in that City, and sent to Goal for refusing to Swear.

4 Sentenced
to Transporta-
tion.

At the Quarter Sessions, held at Norwich Castle on the 20th of the Month called February 1665, *Henry Kettle jun. and Robert Eden*, both of *Thetford*,

Thetford, Richard Cockerill of *Snares-bill*, and Edmund Rack of *Kilverston*, convicted of the third Offence in meeting together, were sentenced to be carried from thence to *Yarmouth*, and from that Port to be transported to *Barbadoes* for seven Years.

NORFOLK.
1666.

ANNO 1666. Henry Walker of *Ashbee*, imprisoned on an Execution for Tithes, died this Year a Prisoner for his Testimony : And in the same Year, Thomas Watson, a poor Man of *Fakenham*, was fined 60*l.* for three Months Absence from the National Worship on the Statute of Queen Elizabeth, and though utterly unable to pay that Fine, was taken from his Wife and three Children, and committed to *Norwich Castle* : As was John Heath, of *Sparl*, fined in the like Sum for the same Cause. And for the same Cause of absenting themselves from the National Worship, John Booty, a blind Man of *Stratton-Myles*, and Elizabeth his Wife, suffered Imprisonment in *Norwich Castle* ; as did also Samuel King of *Barfer*.

Death of
H. Walker in
Prison for
Tithes.

Commitment
of Others.

ANNO 1667. Joseph Harrison, Edmund Peckover, William Hempstoll, Samuel Tubby, and Alice Williamson, having been prosecuted on Indictments for neglecting the publick Worship in their respective Parish-Churches, so called, were committed to Prison. And in this Year Hilary James, of *Sneiberton*, was prosecuted in the *Exchequer* for Tithes, and by an Attachment out of that Court, committed to *Norwich Castle*. And to the same Prison were also committed about the same Time, James Fulcher of *Lammis*, Peter Gill, and Nicholas Phillips, upon Prosecutions for Tithes.

Others impri-
soned.

ANNO 1668. Thomas Berrier and Robert Berrier, both of *Upwell*, and Simon Gee, having been prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes, were by Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*, dated the 18th of July this Year, committed to Prison ; as was about the same Time, Francis Gardener, for the like conscientious Refusal to pay Tithes. And in the same Year, William Monk and his Wife, both very aged, were sent to Prison for their Nonconformity to the Manner of Worship by Law established.

Several im-
prisoned by
Writs de
Excom. Cap.

ANNO 1670. On the 29th of the Month called April, John Hubbard the Elder, of *Stoke*, had his Goods taken by Distress, for his own and his Wife's Absence from the publick Way of Worship, to the Value of 80*l.*

Distresses.

After the coming out of the Conventicle-Act in this Year, great Spoil was made in this County, several base Fellows taking up the Trade of Informing, and the Justices readily complying with their avaricious Purpose by granting their Warrants for Distress, by which were taken as follows, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
From Robert Allen, of Buxton, Goods worth	13	13	8
Henry Appleyard, of Saxlingham	0	15	0
Matthew Bacon, of North-Walsbam, and Andrew	0	18	0
Bansam, of Banningham	40	0	0
William Barber, of Gessing	0	11	0
William Bishop, of Wymondham	7	8	0
John Brown, of Fritten, and Elizabeth Bidwell,	21	0	0
of Taxham	1	10	0
* John Booty, of Stratton-Myles	51	0	0
Thomas Dormer, of Saxlingham	7	10	0
Lewis Geedy, of Hempenhall	31	1	6
Robert Goodwin, of Saxlingham	8	0	0
Joseph Harrison, of Fakenham	27	0	0
John Halls, of Sbotisham	32	13	6
Elizabeth Halls, of Saxlingham	29	2	0
John Wade, of Twysford			
Robert Southgate, of Twysford			

Distresses by
the Conven-
ticle-Act.

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Carr. over 272 2 8

* John Booty had been blind about twenty Years.

NORFOLK.

1670.

	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	272	2	8
From <i>Hugh Shelterham, of Twyford</i>	4	5	6
<i>Richard Pulling, of Saxlingham</i>	1	12	4
<i>William Wasey, of Bardswell, John Goodwin, of Taseborough, Thomas Tyrrell, of Hardwick, and Mary Johnson</i>	12	11	0
* <i>Luke Lindoe, of Scarning</i>	28	1	6
<i>Edward Pearse and Thomas True, of East-Dereham</i>	23	0	3
<i>William Stonnuck, of Cranworth</i>	3	1	0
<i>Robert Last and Samuel Pike, of Ellingham</i>	155	0	0
<i>Peter Gill and John Soams, of Aylsham</i>	47	13	0
<i>William Scarning and John Hewett, of Banningham</i>	16	2	0
<i>William King, of North-Walsbam</i>	26	1	6
<i>Robert Peartree, of Edgefield</i>	15	0	0
<i>William Hempstoll and Edmund Peckover, of Fakenham</i>	3	5	0
<i>Henry Miller, of Wickmore</i>	40	0	0
<i>Jeremy Lucas, Grace Palmer, and Anne Palmer</i>	2	13	6
<i>Edward King, of Wymondham</i>	2	10	0
<i>Frances Pulbam, of Runball, and William Freeman, of Attleburgh</i>	1	12	0
† <i>John Allen, of Lamnis, and John Reeve, of Aylsham</i>	2	6	6
<i>John Laurence, of Wrampingham</i>	40	0	0
<i>Elizabeth Rouse, of Aylsham, Abraham House, of Rushford, and Robert King, of Swafeld</i>	14	7	2
<i>Edmund Rack, of Kilverston</i>	26	0	0
<i>William Garnham, Mary Townsend, and Robert Spurgin, of Thetford</i>	2	5	0
<i>Henry Kettle, of Rushford</i>	10	17	0
<i>Henry Goddard, of Hockbam</i>	9	4	0
<i>Thomas Money and Francis Gardener, both of Tivetshall</i>	3	0	0
	762	10	11

Busy In-
formers.

Captain Crop-
ley's Cruelty.

About this Time *William Barber*, of *Gessing*, was committed to Prison on a *Significavit* of Excommunication procured by the Priest of that Parish, who also acted the Part of an Informer against him for being at the Meeting, for which he was fined as is before mentioned. Of those who were active in molesting religious Meetings, about *Thetford*, was one *Captain Cropley*, who without Warrant from the Civil Magistrate, would attempt to disperse the Assemblies by Force of Arms: And when they asked for his Commission so to do, he shewed them his Rapier: And one of them not going at his Command, he beat him on

* *Luke Lindoe* had all his Beds taken away, with other Goods, so that himself, his Wife and Children, were constrained to lodge on Straw in the cold Winter Season.

† The said *John Allen* was also sent to Goal by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

“ *Norfolk* fs.

“ I herewith send you the Body of *John Allen*, of *Lamnis*, who refuseth to take the Oath of Allegiance, and hath several Meetings, and unlawful Assemblies at his House, under Pretence of divine Worship, contrary to his Majesty's late Proclamation. These are therefore to will and require you in his Majesty's Name, him safely to keep as your Prisoner, to answer this his Contempt at the next Assizes and General-Goal-Delivery, holden for this County at the Castle of *Norwich*: And hereof fail not, Given under my Hand and Seal this 9th Day of *June* 1671.

To the Keeper of the King's Goal
at the Castle of *Norwich*, or to
his Deputy in his Absence.

on the Head with his Stick, and kickt him on the Back, to the endangering of his Life, so that he was sick for a considerable Time after.

NORFOLK.
1670.

On the 10th of the Month called July this Year, two drunken Informers, Wright and Spendlove, (one of whom in his Cups had said, *We will eat of the Fat, and drink of the Sweet, and the Rogues [the Quakers] shall pay for all.*) came to the Meeting at Norwich, and having procured a Warrant, caused William Waymer, Thomas Buddery, Anthony Alexander, John Rust, Edward Monk, Anne Whitlock, Thomas Plumsted, Isaac Goss, and Robert Miles, to go with them before the Mayor. As they passed the Street, the People asked, *Who were the Informers?* Some of the Friends answered, *These are the Informers*, pointing to them. Upon which the People expressed some Dislike of their Practice. Hence those Informers took Occasion, and complained to Augustin Briggs, Mayor, and Francis Bacon, Steward, that they were in Danger, and afraid of the People. Whereupon the Mayor sent five of the Friends to Prison by the following Mittimus, viz.

“ Norwich fs.

“ WE send you herewith the Bodies of Thomas Buddery Woolcomber, John Rust Sawyer, Edward Monk Woolcomber, William Waymer Boddice-maker, and Anthony Alexander Tanner. These are therefore in his Majesty’s Name, to will and require you to receive and keep them in your Custody, till they shall severally find sufficient Sureties for their severall Appearances at the next General Sessions of the Peace, to be holden for this City aforesaid, or be otherwise lawfully discharged. And hereof fail not at your Peril. Given under our Hands and Seals the 10th of July, in the 22d Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King Charles the Second, Annoq; Dom. 1670.

Mittimus of
5 Persons to
Prison.

To the Constables of St. Peter’s of Mancraft, in the City aforesaid, to convey to the Keeper of the Common Goal, to receive the said Persons according to this Warrant.

“ AUGT. BRIGGS, Mayor,
“ FRA. BACON.”

Although this Mittimus expressed no such Cause of Commitment, yet a Bill of Indictment was drawn up against them for a Riot, and presented to the Grand Jury, but they refused to find it. As for Anne Whitlock, at whose House the Meeting was, they fined her 20*l.* but her Goods not being worth so much, Part of that Sum was levied on others, according to the Direction of the Warrant, which was as follows, viz.

“ Norwich fs.

“ WHEREAS Anne Whitlock, of the Parish of St. Edmund in this City aforesaid, Widow, doth stand duly convicted before us Augustin Briggs and Francis Bacon, two of his Majesty’s Justices of this City aforesaid, for wittingly and willingly suffering an unlawful Assembly and Convencicle to be holden in her House upon Sunday the 10th of this Instant July, contrary to the Statute in that Behalf lately made and provided, and thereupon stands fined by us the Sum of twenty Pounds for this her first Offence against the said Act.

Warrant for
Distress.

“ These are therefore in his Majesty’s Name to will and require you, and every of you, forthwith to levy the said Sum of twenty Pounds by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the said Anne Whitlock, rendring to her the Overplus. And if she shall not have sufficient Goods and Chattels, whereby the said twenty Pounds may be levied, then to certify the same unto us, that

“ the

NORFOLK. " the same may be elsewhere levied: And for your so doing this shall be your
1670. " Warrant. Given under our Hands and Seals this 20th of July 1670.

To the Constables of Feybridge " AUGT. BRIGGS, Mayor,
Ward, and to either of them. " FRA. BACON."

Soon after were taken by Distress for Meetings in the said City, as follows, viz:

Distress for
Meetings.

	l.	s.	d.
From John DeFrance, Goods worth	1	6	0
Anthony Alexander	28	2	0
William Waymer	0	19	0
Samuel Duncomb	20	18	6
Thomas Buddery	1	0	0
Anne Whitlock	8	0	0
	60	5	6

Samuel Duncomb and Anthony Alexander appealed to the Quarter Sessions, but found no Redress, the Mayor and Steward not suffering the Witnesses against them to be produced to their Faces, but the Records of the Court, which had been sworn to in their Absence, were taken for Evidence against them; nor were they allowed any Copy of those Records before their Trial. They apprehended themselves to be very unjustly used, and represented the Hardship of their Case in the following Letter to the Mayor, Steward, and Court of Aldermen, viz.

" Friends,

Letter of
S. Duncomb
and A. Alex-
ander.

" OUR Oppression is more than we ought always to bear in Silence :
" You cannot be ignorant how some of us have suffered several Ways,
" sometimes in our Assemblies by the rude Multitude, sometimes by Impri-
" sonment, and sometimes by those called Ecclesiastical Courts.

" And now we are upon the Brink of Ruin by the Loss of our Goods, &c.
" whereby we are made harbourless in our own Houses, and the Widow and
" the Fatherless have been forced to wander from Place to Place for a Night's
" Lodging, which caused Tears to trickle down the Cheeks of the Fatherless
" Children, which has even melted our Bowels to behold. And what would
" you have us to do ? Do you think we are only wilful, and resolve so to be ?
" Do you think these Things are pleasing to our own Wills (as we are Creatures
" compassed with Flesh and Blood, as you also are) thus to suffer ? The Lord
" be Witness in this Case whether it be so, (as sometimes some of you upbraid
" us) or whether it be not, because that Impulse he has upon our Souls and
" Consciences constrains us to wait upon him, (according to his Light made
" manifest in us) to regulate, reform, and lead into the Life of his Son. And
" for our thus Waiting upon him in the Spirit of our Minds, have we deeply
" suffered.

" And some upon the late Act have made themselves Informers and Wit-
" nesses against us, (Parties and Witnesses both) who would Swear upon
" * Supposition, and falsely for their Advantage : And yet their Oaths were
" allowed in our Absence : And when some of us address'd our selves to the
" Mayor, this was his Answer, *He could not help us*, but advised us to make
" our Appeal; and when it was answered, *It may be he would take Offence against*
" *us for it*, he answered, *No, he wisht it might take Effect*. But when it came
" to

* The Informers had sworn that Anthony Alexander was at a Meeting, though they had not seen him there.

“ to Trial, he and the Steward appear’d resolv’d Men that it should never go
“ on our Sides, and hinder’d the Procedure of our Appeal: And because you
“ might see the Jury could not have brought it in against us by the Witnesses
“ Face to Face, being but *one*, and the Act said *two*, (and he a Party) you
“ made the Records, which were sworn to in our Absence, to be the Evi-
“ dence against us, and prest it upon the Jury, that if we were there it was
“ enough, whether we committed Fact against the Law or no. Or is that the
“ Fact, being at an House above five? Does the Act forbid that? O you unjust
“ Judges, would you be thus dealt with your selves? Think you it not enough
“ for us to suffer the Penalty of the Act when we do an Exercise that it forbids,
“ but you will make us suffer before, supposing we intended it? Do you deal
“ thus by Felons? If they be taken in a Place where they have stolen, and you
“ suppose they intended to have done it again, do you punish them upon Sup-
“ position of their Intentions? Surely no. But do you not punish us because
“ you suppose we intended to wait upon God (which is not Evil) though we
“ did not speak one Word? Is there not a Complaint upon Record against
“ those who made Men Offenders for a Word? And you make us so for none
“ at all. Did you think with your selves, we must have suffered from others
“ if we had not from you, and that we had as good from you? If it must
“ have been so, we had rather it had been so for your Sakes, for surely the
“ Hand of the Lord will be shortly stretched forth against you for these unjust
“ Proceedings. The Severity of the Law pretended against us, you would
“ have executed, but you would not let us enjoy the Mercy of it, or what Re-
“ lief it affords. Would you be willing to be dealt so by in the same Case?
“ The Rod that the Lord suffers to lie upon our Backs now, it will be but just
“ you should feel it upon yours. Think upon that: And then who will you
“ have to plead for you? For we have done you no Wrong, nor never in-
“ tended it, the Lord knows. So we have not given you just Cause thus to
“ proceed against us. And your pretending there is a Law against us, and you
“ were forced to proceed thereby, will not hide your Enmity by which you
“ have acted against us; for you go contrary thereunto by punishing us when
“ there is no Exercise committed or pretended contrary to the Act. And you
“ carried it so highly against us, that those we employed to plead in the
“ Cause, we perceive, were afraid of your Displeasure, and so were subordinate
“ to your Wills, and thereby would not plead it fully according to their Judg-
“ ments. And we were ignorant we might speak in our Case our selves,
“ (according to Law) having retained them to plead it for us. So we have suf-
“ fered on every Hand: Well, we do see there is none to plead our Cause in
“ this Matter but the Lord, who will certainly do it in his own Time: And
“ when he utters his Voice by his Judgments upon you, then shall you know,
“ it’s a fearful Thing to fall into the Hands of the Living God, with whom it is
“ a righteous Thing to recompense Tribulation to them that trouble such as do
“ them no Wrong. And have not you gone about to take the Staff out of the
“ Lord’s Hand, and presumed to intrench upon his Prerogative, *viz.* to punish
“ People for the Meditation of their Hearts and Spirits, by Pretence of your
“ outward Law, when they do no outward Exercise in Words or Actions? And
“ do you not think the Lord will arise against you for it, and be terrible to you in
“ the End, if you do not repent? You have been Presidents in this Case, which
“ tends to the Ruin of many, and so you have the more to answer; but we
“ wish you may find Mercy from the great Judge of all the Earth, though
“ we did not from you. But you must also expect Judgment, and that with
“ Severity, if you do not speedily repent, and give Testimony thereof in
“ Words and Deeds. And therefore be not high-minded, but fear; for the
“ Lord can quickly blast your Honour, and disperse your Riches. And Woe
“ to them that spoil when they were not spoiled, (or encourage them that seek
“ so to do) surely the Lord’s Hand you will feel heavy for these Things. We
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NORFOLK.

1670.

NORFOLK. "cannot sow Pillows under your Arm-holes, but wish you well as we
1670. "do our selves.

"SAMUEL DUNCOMB,
"ANTHONY ALEXANDER.

"P. S. You have always said to us, (by your Proceedings against us) *Bow*
"down your Souls that we may go over you. But the Lord will not always
"suffer you so to do."

The Mayor so highly resented this Letter, that he sent them to Prison for scandalous Expressions, by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

"Norwich fs.

Mittimus of
S. Duncomb
and A. Alex-
ander.

"THESE are in his Majesty's Name to will and require you to take
"into your Custody *Samuel Duncomb* and *Anthony Alexander*, and them
"safely keep, until they shall find good Sureties for their Appearance at the
"next Sessions, for scandalous Expressions against Mr. Mayor, and Mr. Stew-
"ard, and the Court of Aldermen, and that they in the mean Time be of the
"good Behaviour: And hereof fail not. This 11th of January 1670.

To the Keeper of the Common
Prison in the said City.

"AUGT. BRIGGS, Mayor."

Samuel Duncomb, being in Prison, sent a second Letter to the Magistrates, being as follows, viz.

"Magistrates!

Letter of
S. Duncomb
to the Magis-
trates.

"AS I know I ought not to feign a Love with Diffimulation to shun
"Sufferings, so I know I ought not to let Sufferings extinguish that
"which is without, as it hath not, though I cannot write to you so as to please
"you: I confess, I wish I could say *You are far from Oppression*: And it
"grieves me that I must on the Contrary say, *You manifested your Forwardness*
"to strengthen the Oppressors, rather than to relieve the Oppressed, when, (ac-
"cording to legal Proceedings) you could not have done any otherwise, if you
"had given us those Advantages the Law doth allow: But you put us by
"having the Evidence *viva voce*, according to the ancient Trial of Juries, and
"put us upon disproving that which was sworn in our Absence, and would not
"grant us a Copy of it before our Trial, that we might know thereby what
"we had to defend, but at our Trial we must disprove that we knew not
"what before, or lose our Goods, so just surprized us: As if you had in-
"tended it on purpose to be a Snare for us. And for complaining thereof to
"be unjust, our Liberties are taken from us, our Trades and Credits exposed
"to utter Ruin, whereby you have added Oppression to Oppression.
"If it be hard to you to bear the laying these Things before you, you may
"consider what it is to bear the Suffering of them, viz. *Loss of Goods*, whereby
"we have been forced to lodge in Straw; *Loss of Liberty*, *Spoil of Trade*, *Spoil*
"of Credits, and the Detriment that you know accrues to young Tradesmen
"thereby. So that we are unable to maintain our aged Parents, and Relations,
"and Others, as we did help to do when we enjoyed them. Is it not strange
"that the Steward should appear so tender-hearted toward Felons, as to de-
"clare openly, *It is better to err in Mercy than in Judgment*; and be so hard
"to us as to err in Judgment thus to the ruining of us. I remember I have
"read, that King *Charles the First*, in his Sufferings expressed, that he was sensible
"there was nothing worse than legal Tyranny, that is, Oppression under Pretence
"of the Execution of a Law, for you know Tyranny is not legal. And it
"may be judged how averse he was to it, by his Judges Proceeding (no doubt
"by

“ by his Directions) in the Trial of *John Lilburne* (at *Oxford* I think it was) who was active against the King in hostile Arms: Yet the Judges gave him all the Advantages he could take for the Preservation of his Life, whereby he did obtain his Deliverance: By which the King was more honoured, than if his Judges had taken away *Lilburne's* Life, by hindering him of his Advantages. And we are not seditious Sectaries, or disloyal Persons to the King; nor ever were, nor can be so proved, whose Practices only the late Act takes hold of; and not the Practices of any other Persons, as you may clearly understand, if you please to peruse the Preamble of it. So leaving these Things to your tender Consideration, I remain

“ Your Prisoner

“ SAMUEL DUNCOMB.

“ P. S. I believe some of the Justices, that sat in Court at our Trial, were not satisfied with the Proceedings therein, yet inasmuch as they were silent, they cannot be excluded.”

ANNO 1672. The following Persons, being comprehended in the King's Letters Patent under the great Seal of England, were this Year discharged out of Prison in this County, viz. *Edward Seonce, Nicholas Ruston, Henry Kettle, Edmund Rack, Thomas Cocherill, Robert Elden, Thomas Munford, Robert Gow-fell, Edward Beatley, Joseph Harrison, Edmund Patteson, Mary Cirake, Anne Holloway, Lewis Gedge, Thomas Watson, and William Hempstoll.*

Release of Prisoners.

ANNO 1674. Remarkable in this Year were the Sufferings of *Joseph Harrison*, a Butcher, dwelling in or near *Fakenham*: This Man, notwithstanding the Severity of the Law, and its rigorous Execution, ceased not to admit religious Meetings to be held in his House, and endured with Christian Patience the Penalties of his so doing, though often repeated; for on the 31st of the Month called *August*, the Parochial Officers, with a Warrant from *Sir Christopher Caliborpe*, a Justice of the Peace, took from him a Bullock, and five Sheep, worth 5*l.* and about three Days after, they took from his Stall in the Market, Beef worth 1*l.* 12*s.* On the 16th of *September* they took out of his Orchard three fat Bullocks worth 9*l.* And on the 23d, a fat Bullock worth 3*l.* 10*s.* On the 14th of *October*, two Bullocks worth 6*l.* And on the 28th, a Milch Cow worth 50*s.* And soon after that, an Horse and a Mare worth 4*l.* And in the Months called *January* and *February* the same Year, they seized at three several Times his Meat in the Market, to the Value of 3*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

Sufferings of J. Harrison.

In this Year also, *Edward Pickling*, of *Trunk*, was committed to Prison for refusing to pay Tithes, at the Suit of *Robert Thickston*, Priest of the same Parish.

Imprisonment of *E. Pickling*.

ANNO 1675. *Thomas Murford* was presented at the Quarter Sessions; a Copy of which Presentment is as follows.

“ City of Norwich, and County of Norfolk, 1675.

“ **B**E it remembred, that *Joseph Tenison*, Gent. as well for our Lord the King, as for the Poor of the Parish of *St. Peter's* of *Mancroft* in the City aforesaid, as for himself in this Behalf, in his proper Person cometh here in Court of our Lord the King, of the General Sessions of the Peace and Oyer and Terminer, holden at *Guild-hall*, in the City aforesaid, on Monday being the 12th Day of *July*, in the 27th Year of our Sovereign Lord *Charles the Second*, by the Grace of God, of *England, Scotland, France, and Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. before *John Manser*, Mayor, and *Francis Bacon*, Esq; Steward of the same City, and other his Associates, assigned Justices of the Peace of the City aforesaid, and County of the same City, to be kept; and also to hear and determine diverse Felonies and Trespases, and other evil Deeds perpetrated in the City aforesaid, and County

Presentment of T. Murford.

W. Manser.

W. Manser.

NORFOLK.
1675.

“ of the same. And as well for our Lord the King, and the Poor aforesaid,
“ as for himself, giveth the Court here to understand, and be informed, that
“ *Thomas Murford*, late of the aforesaid Parish of *St. Peter*, of *Mancraft*,
“ in the City aforesaid, and County of the same City, Yeoman, who for
“ one Year last past, before the Day of the exhibiting this Information, was
“ an Inhabitant within the Parish aforesaid, and by the whole Time aforesaid
“ was of the Age of sixteen Years and above : And that the said *Thomas*
“ *Murford*, from the first Day of *April*, in the aforesaid 27th Year of the Reign
“ of our now said Lord the King, until the second Day of *July* in the Year aforesaid,
“ viz. by three Months next following after the aforesaid first Day of
“ *April*, did not repair to his Parish-Church in the Parish aforesaid, nor to any
“ other Church, Chapel, nor usual Place of Common-prayer, and divine Service,
“ on any Lord's Days, or other Days, ordained and used to be kept as Holydays,
“ happening between the aforesaid first Day of *April* and the aforesaid
“ second Day of *July*, but voluntarily and obstinately hath forborn the same by
“ the Space of three Months, the aforesaid *Thomas Murford* not having a lawful
“ or reasonable Excuse or Impediment for his Absence, contrary to the Form
“ of the Statutes in the Parliament at *Westminster*, in the County of *Middlesex*,
“ holden in the Years of the Reign of our late Sovereign Lady *Elizabeth*, late
“ Queen of *England*, &c. the 1st and 23d in that Case made and provided,
“ by which the said *Thomas Murford*, by Virtue of the Statute aforesaid, made
“ in the 23d Year of the Reign of the said Queen, hath forfeited to our now
“ said Lord the King, to the Poor of the Parish of *St. Peter*, of *Mancraft*
“ aforesaid, and to the aforesaid *Joseph Tenison*, sixty Pounds of lawful Money
“ of *England*, viz. twenty Pounds for every Month of the aforesaid three
“ Months : Upon which the said *Joseph Tenison* requireth of the said *Thomas*
“ *Murford*, for our said Lord the King, for the Poor of the Parish of *St. Peter*'s
“ of *Mancraft* aforesaid, and for himself, the aforesaid sixty Pounds by the
“ said *Thomas Murford* so as aforesaid forfeited. Whereupon the said *Joseph*
“ *Tenison*, who as well prayeth a third Part, according to the Form of the
“ Statute made in the said 23d Year, as well for our said Lord the King,
“ and the Poor aforesaid, as for himself, prayeth the Advice of the Court here
“ in the Premises, and due Process of Law to be made against the said *Thomas*
“ *Murford*, &c.

“ The said *Joseph Tenison* was sworn here in full Court, according to
“ the Statute.

“ Pledges to prosecute } JOHN DOE,
“ RICHARD ROE.”

Imprisonments
and Prosecu-
tions for
Tithes.

Thus commenced a vexatious Prosecution ; of the Issue of which we have not a particular Account.

In like Manner also *Samuel Duncomb* was prosecuted for absenting himself from the publick Worship.

In this Year *John Norris* and *Henry Peede*, of *North-Walsham*, were imprisoned for Tithes, at the Suit of Esq; *Beecher*. Also *John Hart* and *Matthew Bacon* were committed to Prison for Demands of small Tithes and *Easter-Offerings*, at the Suit of *Thomas Clendon*, Priest of *North-Walsham*, whose Demand from one of them amounted to no more than 5 d. per Annum. Also *Francis Gardener*, of *Tivetshall*, was prosecuted in the *Exchequer* for Tithes, at the Suit of *Christopher Burrill*, Priest, and committed to *Norwich Castle*.

More Suffer-
ings of *Joseph*
Harrison.

Joseph Harrison, who suffered so much Spoil of his Goods in the last Year, had taken from him also in this Year, by eighteen several Seizures of Beef in the Market, to the Value of 18 l. 19 s. 8 d. He also suffered Distress of an Horse, Hay, and Household Goods, to the Value of 7 l. 5 s.

Distress on
W. Barber.

In *October* this Year, upon the Information of *John Gibbs*, Priest of *Gessing*, *William Barber* of that Place was convicted for a Meeting at his House, and fined 20 l. for which he had his Goods seized to the Value of 50 l. though himself was then in Prison at the same Priest's Suit for Tithes.

ANNO

ANNO 1676. About this Time many Warrants, upon Informations given of religious Meetings, were granted by the Justices, *Calthorp, Bedingfield, Crow,* and others, by which were taken, at or near *Fakenham,*

NORFOLK.
1676.

From the Widow <i>Hemsterly</i> , thirty five Sheep worth	10	0	0
<i>Francis Hill</i> , seven Cows, a Mare, two Horses,	26	16	6
Cloth, and Money, to the Value of	9	12	0
<i>Robert Southgate</i> , of <i>Twysford</i> , two Cows, a Mare,	16	12	9
and other Goods, worth	13	5	9
<i>Nathanael Uring</i> , of <i>Walsingham</i> , two Mares,	10	18	4
Yarn, Tobacco, and other Goods, worth	87	4	7
<i>Robert Kirby</i> , of <i>Holt</i> , Goods worth			
<i>Robert Barwick</i> , <i>William Wood</i> , <i>Anne Bee</i> , <i>Rose</i>			
<i>Cambridge</i> , <i>John Bee</i> , <i>William Bullard</i> , <i>James</i>			
<i>Bunting</i> , and <i>Clemence Simons</i> , Goods worth			

Distresses for Meetings.

Some of the Persons last named were poor, and the Distresses made on them, though of no great Value, yet extended to deprive them of their necessary Household Utensils, and such other Things as in their low Circumstances, were not easy to be recovered. But peculiarly grievous were the following Cases, viz.

The Wife of *Francis Larder*, frequented the Meetings of the People called *Quakers*, though he himself was not of that Persuasion: But for her Offence he was fined, and the Officers took away a Rugg, Blanket, and Bolster, worth 15 s. She still persisting in her religious Course, her Husband was again fined; but when the Officers came the second Time to distrain, they found his Wife sick in Bed, and little Goods in the House, whereupon they reported to the Justice accordingly, and that the Woman was likely to die. But the Justice, whom no Circumstance could move to Compassion, ordered them to go and take the Bed from under her, which Command was prevented from being put in Execution by the poor Woman's Death that Night. She was, with her Husband's Consent, at her Desire, buried in the Burying-Ground of her Friends, the *Quakers*: The Parish-Priest and his Clerk, not being paid their customary Fees, exprest their Indignation by an unusual Piece of Inhumanity; for after the Corps had been interred several Days, one *Thomas Brelland* and his Wife were induced to cause their Servant *Richard Tendrick*, and another Person, whose Name was *Robert Bloom*, to take up the Corps out of the Grave; in doing which they broke the Coffin, which they tied together, and then carried to the Market-place at *Fakenham*, and set it down near *Edmund Peckover's* Door, to the Amazement of the People, who were grieved to see so inhuman an Action: For which no Cause was assigned, but the Omission of paying Fees, pretended to be due where nothing had been done.

Grievous Case of F. Larder.

Inhuman Doings.

Thomas Watson, a very poor Man, who by hard Labour supported his Wife and five small Children, was fined for being at a Meeting. The Officers, pitying his Circumstances, reported to the Justice that the Man had little in the House, except the Bed he and his Family lay on. The hard-hearted Magistrate ordered them to take his Bed, which they did the next Day, and left him and his Family to lodge on Straw. His industrious Wife, after this, endeavouring to help maintain her Children, by baking a little Bread and selling it in the Market, the Officers made a Seizure even of that, at one Time to the Value of 19 d. and at another Time to the Value of 14 d. These Instances shew, that nothing is more destructive of Humanity than a furious and ignorant Zeal: This was farther exemplified in the Case of *Peter Wynne*, a Man so very poor, that the Goods they took from him, worth but 8 s. were the principal Part of the Furniture of his House.

Hard Case of T. Watson and his Wife.

NORFOLK.
1676.

An implacable
Prosecutor.

Death of
T. Mathew-
man in Pri-
son.

Death of
his Wife.

Visiting a sick
Man deemed a
Conventicle.

William Barber, of Gessing, was continued in Prison for Tithes, where he had lain seven Years at the Suit of John Gibbs his Parish Priest, a Prosecutor so implacable as to say, that he had taken Care, in Case of his own Death, that Barber should not be released. An Expression denoting a fixed Malice, as contrary to Christian Charity, as Darkness to Light.

Jonathan Booty, after a Prosecution in the County Court for Tithes, at the Suit of Christopher Reeve, Priest of Stratten-Mary, had taken from him for Tithes four Cows worth 18l.

Thomas Matthevman, of East-Dereham, was imprisoned for Tithes in Norwich Castle at the Suit of Richard King, an Impropiator, in which Imprisonment he died on the 7th of November this Year: His Wife, who affectionately attended him in the cold unhealthy Prison, contracted thereby a Fit of Sickness, of which she also died on the 17th of the next Month.

There dwelt at Buckenham, in this County, one Robert Tillet, an ancient Man, very weak and consumptive, whom some of his Friends came to visit in his Sickness: Two Informers, observing this, crept into their Company; and while they were sitting together, the sick Man spake a few Words to his Friends concerning his own Experience of the Work of Religion. This the Informers swore to be a Conventicle, and the sick Man was fined 20l. for which they took away six of his Cows. About the same Time they took from Robert Peartree, whom they had impoverished by former Seizures, the Remainder of his Household Goods, and after that, the very Tools and Utensils belonging to his Trade.

For Meetings at Trivetshall, were taken

Distresses for
Meetings.

	l.	s.	d.
From John Money, a Mare, Cow, and Bedding, worth	12	10	0
Thomas Money, six Cows, a Mare, an Heifer, and Wood, worth	31	0	0
Margaret Money, Widow, her Bedding, and two Cows, worth	10	0	0
John Hunt, two Mares, and a Cart, worth	6	3	6
Mary Satterthwait, Pewter worth	2	0	0
Robert Mills, Yarn, Cloth, Looms, &c. worth	5	5	4
Robert Goodwin, two Cows and a Bull, worth	9	0	0
William Tilney, two Cows worth	8	0	0
And from William Cattamew, a poor Man, whom it would have been Charity to have relieved, a Table worth	0	5	6

For a Meeting at Snare's-Hill, taken

From Edward Rack, of Rushford, a Cow worth	3	10	0
Richard Hewes, of Gaythorp, three Cows worth	10	0	0
	97	14	4

For Meetings at the House of John Paterfon, of Cockly-Clay near Swaffham, were taken

	l.	s.	d.
From the said John Paterfon, two Hundred Sheep, and other Goods, worth	110	0	0
From John Hubbard, Cloth and Bays worth	19	0	0
Zachary Moniman, Goods worth	0	12	0
	129	12	0

Violent Pro-
ceedings at
Norwich.

Violent in this Year were the Proceedings at Norwich, as appears by the following Instances,

When the Officers came to Anthony Alexander's House to make Distress, and took away Goods worth 17l. 19s. One of them, Erasmus Cooper, said to Alexander's

CHAP. 26. of the People called QUAKERS.

Alexander's Wife, that He was come to seize all they had, and would not leave them a Bed to lie on. They brake the Doors with a Pickax, and behaved so desperately, that some Neighbours wept at the Sight of it. They charged Alexander's Man to help them, and being told how unreasonable it was to require a Servant to take away his Master's Goods; one of them churlishly answered, *They are our Goods.*

In like Manner, the Officers making Distrels on the Goods of Samuel Duncomb, brought with them to his House one *Tennison*, an impudent Informer, and the common Hangman. They tarried there several Days and Nights, and kept Samuel's Wife, then big with Child, a Prisoner, suffering her to speak to no Body, and admitting none of the Neighbours to come near her. One of the Informers was so insolent as to say, *I'll make the Mayor wait upon us as often as I please.* The Goods they took at that Time from Samuel Duncomb were valued at 42 l. 19 s.

With like Severity they entred into the House of Thomas Murford, in his Absence; and took away four Pieces of Broad-cloth, and twelve Pieces of Linen, worth about 40 l. At his coming Home, he appealed to the Quarter Sessions, but the Recorder, his Adversary, carried the Cause against him, and also committed him to Prison. When he enquired the Cause of his Commitment, the Recorder answered, *You shall know that afterward.* Thus arbitrarily committed, he remained close Prisoner about eighteen Weeks. The said Thomas Murford and Samuel Duncomb, within the Space of three Months, had Goods taken from them, for their religious Meetings, to the Value of 220 l. 19 s. About the same Time were taken, for the same Cause, from Robert Hutchinson, John Sharper, John Fiddeman, and John DeFrance, Goods worth 11 l. 10 s. 2 d.

On the 17th of the Month called July this Year, Thomas Atkins was taken out of a Meeting at Norwich, and carried before the Mayor, who tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing to Swear, committed him to Prison.

ANNO 1677. Henry Goddard, for refusing to pay Tithes, was prosecuted in the County Court by Christopher Reeve, Priest of Stratton-Mary, and had three Cows taken from him worth 9 l. In the same Year Thomas Tykrell was prosecuted to an Outlawry for 6 l. demanded for Tithes, at the Suit of Thomas Crabb, Priest, and was imprisoned at Norwich seventeen Weeks: His Cattle also were distrained to the Value of about 30 l. and afterward, on an Execution for the same Tithe, were taken from him eight Cows, four Hogs, two Mares, a Colt, and Linen-Yarn, to the farther Value of 48 l. So that for Tithes claimed worth but 6 l. he sustained the Loss of his Goods to thirteen Times that Value, and also the Imprisonment of his Person. Hardships insupportable, had they not been alleviated by the Testimony of a good Conscience, supporting the Sufferer under the Weight of such Oppression.

For a Meeting at the House of Edward Mills, in Runball, were taken

	l.	s.	d.	
From John Parker, a Mare, Colt, Hay, and Wood, worth	7	5	0	} Distresses for Meeting.
John Aggs, two Milch Cows, an Horse, and Mare, worth	12	0	0	
Stephen Gooch, two Cows and a Calf, worth	7	0	0	
William Stonack, two Cows and a Calf, worth	9	0	0	
	35	5	0	

ANNO 1678. Daniel Phillips, of Stoak-Ferry, was committed to Prison for refusing to pay small Tithes, at the Suit of Jeremiah Cowel and Robert Cowel, Tithe-farmers. And Nicholas Phillips was yet continuing in Prison, where he had been above ten Years, at the Suit of Edward Barnard of Dis. There were also remaining in Prison, for their Testimony against Tithes, Matthew King, Stephen Wicks, William King, and Richard Rouse, of whom the former two had then been Prisoners about seventeen Years, the Third about fifteen Years, and the Latter almost nine Years. Also Francis Gardener, after about three

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NORFOLK.
1676

Prosecutions
for Tithes.

Distresses for
Meeting.

Long Imprison-
ments for
Tithes.

NORFOLK. three Years Confinement for Tithes, at the Suit of *Christopher Burrel*, Priest of *Trivetball*, was taken with a violent Fit of Sickness, and when his Life was in apparent Danger, Application was made to his Prosecutor to grant him a little Liberty, but he refused it; so that he died under close Confinement on the 7th of December this Year.

1678.
Death of
F. Gardener
in Prison.

More Suffer-
ings of Joseph
Harrison.

In this Year also *Joseph Harrison*, several Times before mentioned, suffered, for Meetings, nine several Seizures of Beef, and Hides in the Market, to the Value of 7*l.* 18*s.* And in the same Year, the Officers also went three several Times to his House, broke open his Shop-doors, and took thence Beef, Tallow, and Hides, worth 9*l.* 10*s.* The Officers, who made these Seizures, rendered neither Account nor Overplus to the Sufferer; they usually sold the Meat among themselves, and some of them would sit tipling with *Watt* the Informer most Part of the Night. Some of the Justices also would convict upon a slender Information; for Instance, Justice *Calthorp* granted a Warrant for Distress, for a Meeting at *Joseph Harrison's* House, upon the Oaths of *Watt* and his Wife, who swore that they saw certain Persons come out of the Gate.

Sufferings of
E. Peckover.

It happened in this Year, that *Edmund Peckover*, a Shopkeeper of *Fakenham*, an ancient Man, was chosen Overseer of the Poor of that Parish. Now it was usual with the Justices when they granted Warrants for Distress, to direct them to the Constables, Overseers, and Churchwardens, of the Place. Accordingly *Edmund* was called on to assist in selling some Goods, taken by Distress from a Neighbour of his own Persuasion, which he refused to do, alledging, *that he was lame, and not able to sell his own Goods.* This he spoke in the Hearing of *Watt* the Informer's Wife, and another Woman who had been twice whipt for Theft. These Women reported to Justice *Hilliard*, that *Edmund* had said, *He would not sell stolen Goods.* Upon this the Justice sent his Warrant for him, and after some Conference told him, *That in regard of his Age he would dismiss him, if he would promise to execute the next Warrant of that Kind.* To which he answered, *I may not do my Neighbour such an Injury.* Wherefore the Justice fined him 5*l.* and issued a Warrant for Distress, by which his Goods were taken away to the Value of 24*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* The Form of which Warrant was as follows, viz.

“ *Norfolk* fs.

Warrant for
Distress on
E. Peckover.

“ **W**HEREAS it stands convicted before me, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in this County, by the Oath of two Witnesses, as well as by the Notoriety of the Thing it self, that *Edmund Peckover*, of the Parish of *Fakenham* in the County aforesaid, hath wittingly and willingly omitted, and peremptorily refused to execute or assist in the Execution of a Warrant upon the Goods of *Joseph Harrison*, of the Parish and County aforesaid, for that the said *Joseph Harrison* did suffer an unlawful Meeting or Conventicle in his Dwelling-house, in *Fakenham* aforesaid, he the said *Edmund* being Overseer for the Poor in the said Parish, and hath for his Omission forfeited 5*l.* according to the Statute, intituled, *An Act for preventing and suppressing of Conventicles.* These are in his Majesty's Name to will and require you forthwith to levy upon the Goods and Chattels of the said *Edmund Peckover* the Sum of five Pounds by Distress and Sale, rendering the Overplus to the said *Edmund*, and to return the said five Pounds to me, to be disposed of as the Law directs. Given under my Hand and Seal at *Carston* this 19th of February, in the 30th Year of his Majesty's Reign. 1678.

To Francis Page and Thomas Jarret,
Constables; Mr. Robert Sheldrake
and Thomas Bretland, Churchwardens;
Robert Borlton and Henry
Gogney, Overseers.

The

The said *Edmund Peckover* was a close Attender of religious Meetings during the Heat of Persecution, and had his Goods often distrained by Warrants grounded on the Act against Conventicles, by which upon several Informations against himself, his Wife, and Son, he had taken from him at several Times, in Goods and Money out of his Shop, to the Value of 70*l.* and upwards.

In this Year also, for Meetings at *Yarmouth*, were taken from *Thomas Fuller*, his Bed, and Bed-clothes, worth 12*l.* And from *William Waymer*, Goods worth 10*l.* 9*s.*

In the same Year *John Hubbard*, *Elizabeth* his Wife, and *John Hubbard* their Son, were prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court, and excommunicated, for Absence from the National Worship; as were also for the same Cause, *Daniel Phillips* and *Elizabeth* his Wife, of *Stoak-ferry*; *John Paterfon* and *Elizabeth* his Wife, of *Cockly-Clay*; *Bartholomew Hewling* and *Margery* his Wife, of *Shipdam*.

John Laurence and *John High*, of *Wramplingham*, were prosecuted on the 23d of Q. Eliz. for not going to their Parish-Church, and suffered a long Imprisonment for the same. And for the like Cause, *John Norris* was imprisoned on a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, and continued Prisoner till he died.

ANNO 1679. *Thomas Foster* and *John Spoil*, both of *Mulborton*, were imprisoned for Tithes on Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*, at the Suit of *David Scargill*, Priest of that Parish.

Edmund Peckover, prosecuted on an old Statute for 12*d.* each Sunday, for Absence from his Parish-Church, had taken from him on that Account, Goods worth 6*l.* 5*s.*

ANNO 1680. The aforesaid *Edmund Peckover* was prosecuted on the Statute, made against *Papish* Recusants, for 20*l.* per Month, for not going to the publick Worship, concerning which the following Account was given in a Letter from his Son *Joseph Peckover*, bearing Date, October the 19th, 1680, viz.

“ Our Adversaries are wholly bent to ruin us; they have distrained for 120*l.*
“ for the King’s Use, as they say, upon the Statute of 20*l.* a Month, and
“ have taken above forty Pieces of Serges and Stuffs, some whole, and some
“ cut; also seventeen Pieces of Linen Cloth, Calicoes, and Scotch Cloth, but
“ would not let us measure any, that we know not what they amount to, so
“ we have shut up Shop to secure our Creditors, and if there be no Likelihood
“ of a Stop to their Proceedings, we intend to keep open Shop no more, but
“ to pay where it is owing. One *Samuel Verden*, the Under-Sheriff, with three
“ of his Bayliffs have done it. They also say, *They will have my Father to*
“ *Prison*, though he be very weak.”

About the same Time, *James Denton*, *John Reeve*, and others, were prosecuted on the same Statute; and *James Denton*’s Malt-house was seized on for the Sum of 200*l.* pretended to be due from him to the King.

Toward the Conclusion of the last Year, viz. on the 21st of the Month called *March*, *George Whitehead* and *Thomas Burr* were taken at a Meeting in *Norwich*: The Manner of their being apprehended was rude and uncivil; for one *Christopher Nobs*, Clerk of *Gregory*’s Parish, came into the Meeting, pushing on each Side with his Elbows, and struck *Rose Gedney* such a Blow on her Breast, as made it sore for several Days after; also *Charles Alden*, a Vintner, and one of the Singing-Men at the Cathedral, rushed in, calling out, *Here’s Sons of Whores: Here’s five Hundred Sons and Daughters of Whores: The Church-Doors stand open, but they will be banged before they will come there.* And whilst *George Whitehead* was speaking, he cryed out, *Pull down that Puppy-Dog, why do you suffer him to stand there prating?* These Persons, and others, made much Disturbance in the Meeting, till at length one of the Sheriffs came, and required *George Whitehead* and *Thomas Burr* to go with him, and he conducted them to the Goal-Door, and there left them: After about two Hours Detention there, they were had before *Francis Bacon*, the Recorder, who told them, *They must either pay down a Fine of 20*l.* each, or go to Prison.* He also asked them, *Whether they would take the Oath of Allegiance?* They answered, *They could not take any Oath for Conscience-sake.* He then told them,

NORFOLK.
1678.Imprison-
ments.

Distress.

Account of
E. Peckover’s
Prosecution.

Seizure.

G. White-
head and T.
Burr appre-
hended.Foul Lan-
guage.Examined by
the Recorder.

NORFOLK.
1680.

that He would commit them to Prison till next Sessions, and then the Oath should be again tendered them, and they should be Premunired if they refused to take it: But if they would pay their Fines, he would not send them to Prison. They persisting in their Refusal, he told them, If they would give Security to appear at the next Quarter Sessions, he would not send them to Goal. But they not being willing to be bound in such a Case, he sent them to Prison by the following Mittimus, viz.

" City and County }
" of Norwich. }

Mittimus.

" **W**HEREAS George Whitehead, of the Parish of St. Buttolph in London, Grocer, and Thomas Burr, of Ware in the County of Hertford, Malster, have this Day assembled together with several other Persons, in Disturbance of the publick Peace, and against the Laws of this Realm, and being required to find Sureties for their respective Appearance at the next general Sessions of the Peace, to be holden for the said City and County, to answer the Premises, which they refused to do. These are therefore to require you to receive and keep the said George Whitehead and Thomas Burr in the Common Goal for the City and County aforesaid, until they shall be discharged by due Order of Law, and hereof fail not: Given under my Hand and Seal the 21st Day of March, Anno Dom. 1679.

To the Constables of the Ward of West-Wymer, and to either of them to convey, and to the Keeper of the Common Goal aforesaid, to receive and keep the said George Whitehead and Thomas Burr, according to this Warrant.

" F. BACON."

Two Days after their Commitment, the Recorder issued a second Warrant, as follows, viz.

" City and County }
" of Norwich. }

A second
Warrant.

" **W**HEREAS George Whitehead and Thomas Burr were lately sent by my Warrant, unto the County Goal for the City and County aforesaid, for being seditiously assembled, with some Hundreds of other disloyal Persons, against the publick Peace, and in Contempt of the Laws and Government of this Realm. Now for that the said George Whitehead and Thomas Burr are suspicious Persons, and Strangers to this City aforesaid, and being unwilling to declare that Duty, which they and every true and well-affected Subject ought to bear, by Bond of Allegiance to our gracious King, they did severally refuse to take and pronounce the Oath of Obedience to the King's Majesty, duly tendered unto them, and after they were severally required to do the same by me. These are therefore in his Majesty's Name, to will and command you to keep the said George Whitehead and Thomas Burr in the Common Goal for the said City and County, without Bail or Mainprize, until the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be holden for the City and County aforesaid: And hereof fail not. Given under my Hand and Seal the 23d Day of March, Annoq; Dom. 1679.

To the Keeper of the Common Goal for
the City and County of Norwich.

" F. BACON."

At the Quarter Sessions, on the 28th of the Month called April 1680, the said George Whitehead and Thomas Burr were called to the Bar, and had a long Hearing respecting the Legality of the Recorder's Proceeding, which the major Part

Part of the Justices seemed not to approve, and were inclinable to have set them at Liberty. But the Recorder insisted on the Oath being tendered them in Court, which was done accordingly: And Record of the Process of the Court respecting them, was made as follows, viz. "George Whitehead and Thomas Burr are discharged of the Matter contained in their two *Mittimus's*. And the Oath of Allegiance, and the Testament to Swear in open Court, at this present Sessions, was severally tendered to them: And the said George Whitehead and Thomas Burr, having severally refused to take the said Oath of Allegiance, it is therefore ordered, that the said George Whitehead and Thomas Burr be committed to the Common Goal of the said City, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize until the next Quarter Sessions." And accordingly they were committed again to Prison.

NORFOLK
1680
Proceedings
against G.
Whitehead
and T. Burr
at Quarter
Sessions.
Record.

During their Trial, they offered to subscribe *A Protestation or Declaration* to distinguish them from *Popish* Recufants, in the following Words, viz.

"*I A. B.* do in the Presence of Almighty God, solemnly protest, and in good Conscience declare, It is my real Judgment, that the Church of Rome is not the real Church of Christ; nor the Pope or Bishop of Rome, Christ's Vicar: And his or their Doctrines of deposing *Heretical* Princes, and of absolving their Subjects of their Obedience: Of Purgatory and Prayers for the Dead: Of Indulgences, and worshipping of Images: Of adoring and praying to the Virgin Mary, and other Saints deceased: And of *Transubstantiation*, or changing the Elements of Bread and Wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, at or after the Consecration thereof, by any Person whatsoever, are false and erroneous, and contrary to the Truth of God declared in the Holy Scriptures. And therefore that the Communion of the said Church is superstitious and erroneous.

"And I do likewise sincerely testify and declare, That I do from the Bottom of my Heart detest and abhor all Plots and Conspiracies that are or may be contrived against the King or Parliament, or People of this Realm, or the true Protestant Religion therein professed. And I do hereby faithfully promise by God's Help to live a peaceable and sober Life, as becometh a good Christian and Protestant to do."

Witness my Hand

The Recorder
A Protestation
against
Popery.

The Prisoners also would have produced to the Court the following *Certificates*, but the Recorder would not suffer them to be read, viz.

"THESE are to certify all whom it may concern, That George Whitehead, of the Parish of St. Buttolph Bishopgate, London, hath lived in the same Parish for about ten Years last past, in good Reputation, and is esteemed a Man of competent Estate, and hath fined for all Offices in the Parish, save Churchwarden, and hath demeaned himself peaceably in his Conversation, and he hath never been accounted, nor reputed to be Jesuit, or Papist, nor any Way Popishly affected: All Which we certify under our Hands.

Discharge of
G. White-
head and
T. Burr
G. White-
head's Certi-
ficate.

JOHN FREEMAN } Common-Council-Men,
THOMAS FYGE }
JOHN RUSSEN Deputy,
GILBERT EAST } Churchwardens,
JOHN OSBORNE }

JOHN SUMNER Constable,
CHARLES BATHURST,
THOMAS DAWSON,
NICHOLAS HARDING.

London, April 22d, 1680.

Deed of
M. Mawley
in Prison.

"THESE are to certify any Person or Persons whom it may concern, that Thomas Burr, of Ware in the County of Hartford, Master, hath lived and been a Trader in Malt for about fourteen Years past, and is a Man

T. Burr's
Certificate.

NORFOLK, 1680. "Man whom we judge of a good competent Estate, and of good Credit
"and Reputation among his Neighbours in this Place, and hath never been
"accounted a Jesuit or Papist: All which we certify under our Hands.

"GILES ROE	} Churchwardens,	THOMAS JOHNSON,
"HENRY HART		RICHARD DICKINSON,
"JOHN LARK	} Constables,	RIVERS DICKINSON,
"WILLIAM MOAKES		EDMUND FEAST,
"JOHN PERROT,		ISAAC HADSLEY.
"HENRY PEACH,		

Ware in Hartfordshire, this
14th of April 1680.

The Recorder
displaced.

About five Days after the End of the aforefaid Sessions, viz. on the 3d of the Month called May, Francis Bacon, the Recorder, a violent Adversary of the People called Quakers, was put out of his Office by a Vote of Common-Council, and a Man of more Equity and Moderation was chosen in his Place.

Before the ensuing Quarter Sessions, till which they stood committed, they found several Opportunities to represent their Case to the new Recorder, and other the Magistrates; also by Means of some of their Friends at London, a Letter was obtained from the Earl of Yarmouth in their Favour: Their Friend William Mead also used his Endeavours for their Relief, and took a Journey to Norwich on purpose to assist them to the utmost of his Power. Thus the Mayor and Justices being fully apprized of their Innocence, became willing to discharge them, and accordingly at the next General Sessions the following Order of Court was made, viz.

"AT the General Sessions of the Peace, holden for the City of Norwich, and County of the same, before Robert Freeman Esq; Mayor of the City of Norwich, John Norris Esq; Recorder of the said City, John Mingley Esq; Steward of the said City, and other his Majesty's Justices of Peace of the said City, the 12th of July, in the two and thirtieth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King Charles the Second, &c. Annoq; Dom. 1680.

Discharge of
G. White-
head and
T. Burr.

"Proclamation being there publickly made, That if any Person would come into the Court, and give any Information or Evidence, or prefer any Bill of Indictment against George Whitehead and Thomas Burr, Prisoners at the Bar, they should be heard. And because no Person came into the Court to prefer any Indictment, or to give any Information against them, the said George Whitehead and Thomas Burr are ordered to be discharged, being committed by Order of the last Sessions, to remain in Prison until this Sessions.

"Per Curiam. CARIE."

Thus after about sixteen Weeks Imprisonment they were set at Liberty. If the Reader shall desire to see the Particulars of their Trial, with the several Points of Law relating to their Commitment, he may find the same handled at large in an Account thereof, intituled, *Due Order of Law and Justice*, inserted in a Book called *The Christian Progress of that ancient Servant and Minister of Jesus Christ, George Whitehead*. Printed in the Year 1725.

Death of
M. Mawley
in Prison.

In a printed Account of the Sufferings of Friends, presented to the King, Lords, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, in the Year 1680, we find an Account of Mary Mawley, of Wortwell, committed to Norwich Castle, at the Suit of — Mingley, Priest of the Parish, for the Tithe of a Goose, and there kept Prisoner till she died.

Imprison-
ments.

ANNO 1681. Henry Miller was committed to Norwich Castle on a Process against him for Absence from the National Worship, as had been some Time before, Francis Balls and Jeremy Lucas.

ANNIS

ANNIS 1682 and 1683. In these Years *Anthony Alexander, Mary Booth, John Fiddeman*, and diverse others of the People called *Quakers*, were kept close confined in the City Goal at *Norwich*, lying there in a Dungeon twenty seven Steps under Ground. Great were the Endeavours used by their Friends for their Relief; as appears by the following *Letter and Narrative*, viz.

NORFOLK.
1682 and
1683.

Close Confinement under Ground.

A Letter from *GEORGE WHITEHEAD and WILLIAM CROUCH*, to Friends in Prison at *Norwich*; dated in the First Month 1682-3.

“ Dear Friends, *Anthony Alexander, Mary Booth, John Fiddeman, &c.*

“ A F T E R the tender Salutation of our dear Loves to you all in the Lord, these are to acquaint you of our Care, and industrious Endeavours, on your Behalf, since we received your last Letters; the One dated the 19th Instant, and the Other the 21st, together with the inclosed Letter from the Attorney, and the *Affidavits, Mittimus's*, and the County-Goaler's Letter to your Goaler, and also Sheriff *Stebbing's* severe Order to him. In Answer to all which, and your Desires signified, we return you this following Account, viz.

A Letter to the Prisoners.

“ 1. We two, whose Names are hereunto subscribed, did Yesterday seek for *John Hill*, to whom the said Attorney directed his Letter, but he was out of the City in the Country.

“ 2. We sought out Judge *Windham*, and in the Afternoon had Admittance to speak to him. He was prepossest with Sheriff *Stebbing's* Account against you, and his own Vindication, having rendred you *obstinate, riotous, affronting the Law in your Meetings, and standing in the Street contrary to the Proclamation, &c.* But be not discouraged at such injurious Reflections.

“ 3. We told him, Sheriff *Stebbing* is your extream Adversary and Party against you.

“ 4. On the Sheriff's Account he also reflected on you, as *refusing to give in Security for your Appearance at the Sessions, and refusing to pay for convenient Rooms in Prison*, and said, that *you chose a * free Prison*. This and more from Sheriff *Stebbing's* Account, but still we excepted against him, as not an indifferent Person.

“ 5. We told him, we had *Affidavits* inclosed in a Letter from Persons indifferent, upon which he called for the Letter to *John Hill*, and opened it, and read the *Mittimus* and *Affidavits*, which did cause some Calm, &c. having before that read the Letter dated the 19th of the First Month, which he plucked out of *G. Whitehead's* Hand, wherein you give Account of Sheriff *Stebbing's* being with the Judge, and of his and the Goaler's being more severe to you since, which Passages we made Improvement of, to shew the Sheriff's Contradiction to what the King, the Lord-Keeper, and Judge *Windham*, had ordered on your Behalf.

“ 6. The Judge said, *he had delivered Sheriff Stebbing's Account to the Lord-Keeper*, and he gave us back the *Mittimus's*, and *Affidavits*, and said, *we might do what we would with the Affidavits, &c.*

“ 7. We gave Account Yesternight to the Meeting of our Friends, of our Endeavours with the Judge, and your Letters and the *Affidavits* were then read in the Meeting, who left the Matter to us farther to manage, and write to you, which herein we do.

“ 8. This Morning we went early to the Lord-Keeper's, obtained Admittance to him, and spoke with him in your Case and Behalf: He shewed us Sheriff *Stebbing's* Account against you. We told him what an extream Adversary and Party he is against you. We delivered him the *Affidavits*, and told him they were from indifferent Persons who had viewed the Goal, and

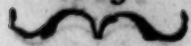
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“ we

* Such they might chuse, and yet not a deep Dungeon.

NORFOLK.
1682 and
1683.



" we desired his tender Notice of them, and to give Report to the King accordingly. He received them, and promised he would deliver them to the King.

" 9. *Lastly.* We having thus far endeavoured, and laboured for you, and vindicated your Cause much more than we can here express: To what you propose of drawing up your Case to the King, we think it very meet, that if you be continued under the same Hardships, you briefly draw up your Complaint by Way of *Humble Petition*, or Request to the King, shewing your hard Usage in the most material Points: For we have lately found that some are apt to reject Complaints at the Council-Board, unless the Words [*Humble Petition*] be in the Front.

" Thus, *Dear Friends*, having given you these brief Notes of our Endeavours, being but as a short *Index* thereof, we hope that farther Endeavours will not be wanting, as the Lord shall open our Way.

" GEORGE WHITEHEAD,

" WILLIAM CROUCH."

" A NARRATIVE of GEORGE WHITEHEAD's and
" GILBERT LATEY's Application to King CHARLES the
" Second, on Behalf of their Friends imprisoned at Norwich.

A Narrative
of an Applica-
tion to King
Charles.

" ON the 23d of the Twelfth Month 1682-3, being the Day the Judges appeared at Council, before they went their Circuits, *George Whitehead* and *Gilbert Latey* then attending, the Case of *Norwich* suffering Friends was delivered at the Council-Board by Sir *Philip Lloyd*, who was pre-engaged to present it, which accordingly he did, but was obstructed the Reading of it, on Pretence that it was not a formal Petition, or not in the usual Form, &c.

" The next Day, being the 24th of the Twelfth Month, *George Whitehead* and *Gilbert Latey* went to the Lord Privy-Seal, and spake to him about the said Case of *Norwich* Prisoners being obstructed the Reading at the Council-Board, &c. He told them, that notwithstanding, after that, the King gave a Moderate Recommendation to the Judges, when they were below, concerning the Prisoners, to enquire into the State of the Prisoners, and their Usage, &c. This he told them twice over.

" A little after they the said *G. W.* and *G. L.* had spoken to the Lord Privy-Seal as before, they went up into the Gallery to speak with the King, at his coming out of the Park, where after some Time of waiting, the Duke and his Attendants passed by to meet the King, and after a little Space the King and his Attendants came through the Long Gallery towards his Lodgings. *G. W.* then stepped up to the King without any Interruption (the whole Company being civil) and thus proceeded, viz.

" *G. W.* May it please the King to grant us the Favour of a few Words. It is in Behalf of many of the King's peaceable Subjects, who are Prisoners at *Norwich*, and there like to be buried alive in Holes and Dungeons.

" King. Can't they swear themselves out of Prison?

" *G. W.* Under Favour, such are not in Society with us. We intreat the King to commiserate the distressed Case of the Prisoners in *Norwich*, for they are burying them alive in Dungeons under Ground.

" King. Have you a Paper? If you have a Paper of their Case, I'll take it.

" *G. W.* Yes, here's a Paper. Which he delivered into the King's Hand, and he gently took it.

" *G. W.* They are a poor harmless People: Poor Woolcombers, Weavers, and Tradesmen, like to be destroyed in Prison, in Holes under Ground. We intreat the King not to suffer these his peaceable Subjects to be buried alive.

" Gilbert

“ Gilbert Latey then stept to the King, saying, We are the King's Subjects
 “ that never did any Thing against him, having been peaceable, and we can
 “ truly say, have served him, and we never were against him, yet our Friends
 “ are great Sufferers, and they lie in a Dungeon twenty seven Steps deep in
 “ the Ground at *Norwich*. Wherefore we have most earnestly sought Relief
 “ of the King.”

NORFOLK.
 1682 and
 1683.

George Whitehead, in his Account of this Application to the King, observes, that his Friend Gilbert Latey (as well as himself) being tenderly affected with Friends Sufferings and Hardships, spake to the King in very tender Affection, under a Sense of the Lord's Power and holy Fear, which reached the King's Heart and Conscience (and Others about him) beyond his Utterance, or what he could in Words demonstrate.

At another Time, viz. on the 26th of the Second Month called April 1683, the said George Whitehead and Gilbert Latey again attended the King at Hampton-Court, of which the said G. W. gives the following Account, viz.

“ On the 25th of the Second Month 1683, we took Boat for Kingston, in
 “ the Afternoon, but before we got to Wandsworth the Weather began to be so
 “ very stormy and tempestuous upon the River Thames, that we were forced
 “ to take in at Wandsworth, and lodge there that Night at the Widow
 “ Springet's. Next Morning we arose by that Time it was well light, and
 “ walked on Foot to Kingston, it raining almost all the Way, so that we were
 “ much wetted in going thither; we made some Stop at Anne Fielder's, at
 “ Kingston, till we had a little refreshed our selves, and dried our Clothes at
 “ the Fire, and then we hastened away to Hampton-Court, to meet with the
 “ King before he went to Council.

“ As we went along the Park, toward the Court, we saw at a Distance
 “ diverse Persons standing in the Porch, looking towards us, and one above
 “ the rest I observed, believing it was the King by his blue Ribbon, and black
 “ Cap. I said to Gilbert Latey, I am persuaded yonder is the King: And as we
 “ drew nearer saw it was the King indeed. And not being willing to go
 “ abruptly into his Presence, to open our Case to him without his Leave, at
 “ a little Distance I called to the King, desiring him to favour us a few
 “ Words, &c. which he presently granting, one of his Gentlemen that knew
 “ us, came to us, and gently took off our Hats, and hung them on the Pales
 “ of a Fence before the Court, and then we went to the King, who was ready
 “ to hear us.

“ Diverse great Persons being present with the King at the Gate or Porch,
 “ I proceeded to open our Case to him concerning the Continuance of the hard
 “ Sufferings of our Friends in *Norwich*, in Manner following, viz.

“ First. I reminded the King, that our poor Friends in *Norwich* were still
 “ continued under great Durefs and Hardships in Goal, in Holes, and a Dun-
 “ geon under Ground, and desired that the King in his Clemency would
 “ please to relieve them, further opening their distressed Case.

“ The King answered, It is against Law they suffer so; and I'll take Care
 “ concerning them.

“ Note. I was truly glad when I heard him give this Answer, believing
 “ then, that the Complaints which had been made to him of our Friends Usage
 “ and Confinement, and the said Affidavits of Others thereof, had such Credit
 “ and Weight with him, that I hoped he would cause them to be released.

“ Secondly. The King questioned us about the Reason of our not putting
 “ off our Hats, and using the Terms Thee and Thou, Yea and Nay: To
 “ which we gave him Answer particularly.

“ Gilbert Latey said, If we could put off our Hats to any Mortal, it should
 “ be to the King first; but for Conscience-sake we could not to any Mortal,
 “ but only in our approaching God in Prayer. To which the King gave no
 “ particular Reply.

“ G. W.

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1683.

" G. W. *Thou and Thee to one Person is Scripture Language, and the true Way of Speaking.*

" G. L. *As Paul did to King Agrippa, Acts xxvi. 2. viz. I think my self happy, O King Agrippa, because I shall answer for my self this Day before thee, touching all the Things whereof I am accused of the Jews, especially because I know thee to be expert in all Customs and Questions which are among the Jews.*

" G. W. *Thirdly. Concerning Yea and Nay, we are not strictly tied to the Expressions, but sometimes use Others of the same Signification, as Yes and No.*

" *A great Person present asked us, Why do you call him King? Why do you not call him, His Majesty?*

" G. W. *As he is King, he has Majesty belonging to him: 'Tis included. His Majesty is his Greatness and Power.*

" King. *You should not stand upon these Things in Affectation: The Word You is now become usual in English: And the Word Yeah is used by Seamen when they call from the Top of the Mast to be heard upon the Deck. 'Tis also a Dutch Word, who express it Yah.*

" G. W. *We affect not Singularity in Words or Behaviour, but desire to demean our selves in that Plainness and Simplicity, which we are in Conscience and Truth persuaded unto.*

" King. *The Words Thee and Thou, might have been better translated out of the Greek, You.*

" G. W. *If so, then the Translators were as simple as we the Quakers.*

" King. *Many of your Friends can Swear, or take an Oath, rather than lose their Voices in Elections.*

" G. W. *Though some few Persons have sworn, who have sometimes gone under our Profession, yet they are not in Society with us, nor we with them.*

" G. L. *We are as much dissatisfied with them as the King can be.*

" G. W. *We desire nothing to be done to the Prejudice or Dishonour of the King, nor to join with, or promote any Interest against the King: The Lord knows our Hearts: We have not any Design or Desire for the Subversion or Change of the Government: Nor can we reasonably be supposed to have any such Design, seeing we were deep Sufferers in Cromwell's Time, as I my self was: Therefore there is no Reason we should seek to promote any Interest against the King, but only desire that God in his Wisdom may direct and preserve the King, and that nothing may be done or suffered to the King's Dishonour or Hurt.*

" G. L. *We would not lose our Point, that we came to the King for, that is, the Case of our distressed Friends in Norwich, to whom we desire the King to shew his Princely Clemency for their Relief.*

" King. *I will take Notice of their Case, and Care about it, that it shall be called for in Council.*

" G. W. *If there be any * Objections against us (i. e. in Council) we pray the King to let us know them, and we hope to give such Answers as shall be satisfactory.*

" King. *You shall know: I'll take Care about your Business.*

" G. W. *We gave Affidavits to the Lord-Keeper, which we hope were delivered to the King.*

" King. *Yes, yes: I'll take Notice of their Case, and it shall be called on in Council.*

" G. L.

* Note. The Reason of this Proposal was, that they were informed that Secretary Jenkins intended to produce a Paper from the Sheriffs of Norwich, in Opposition to the Affidavits which they had delivered. But it was supposed, that the King's favourable Answers, and his confessing their Suffering was against Law, and promising to take Care of their Case, might prevent the Secretary's Intention in that Respect.

“ G. L. We accept it as a great Favour, that we have this Admittance
 “ to be heard, and pray God to preserve and direct the King.
 “ G. W. To the Nobility present, &c. And we acknowledge all your Civili-
 “ ties and Kindness towards us.
 “ G. W. To the King as he was with-drawing. We hope the King will be
 “ mindful of our suffering Friends in Norwich.”

NORFOLK

1682 and

1683.

The Issue of their strenuous Applications, and of the King's favourable Reception and Hearing, and his gracious Promises to take Notice of their Case, was, that at the Summer Assizes 1683, the said Prisoners in the Dungeon at Norwich, were set at Liberty by the Judge, pursuant, as was believed, to the Instructions given him by the King.

In the Year 1682, *Stephen Gooch, Edward Miles jun. and Robert Millis*, were committed to Prison, on Processes against them, for Absence from the National Worship: And in the Year 1683, *John Aggs, William Barrows, William Greenwood, Francis Baldwin, Edmund Bedwell, Samuel Pike, Samuel Claydon, Thomas Fox, Anne Payne, William Moore, and Walter Peddiman*, were also committed to Prison for the same Cause.

Imprisonments
and Prosecu-
tions for
Absence from
the National
Worship.

ANNO 1684. *John Roe and William Roe*, of Longham-hall, Farmers, having been prosecuted on the Statute for 20*l.* per Month, for twelve Months Absence from the National Worship, on the 14th of the Month called April, the Sheriff's Officers came to their House to make a Seizure for 240*l.* and accordingly seized all their Cattle, Corn, and Household Goods: On the next Day they drove away to *East-Dereham* for Sale, twenty eight neat Kine, worth 40*l.* On the 17th they took an Horse, twenty Milch Cows, and seven Calves, worth 56*l.* 10*s.* On the 18th they took three Horses, a Mare, a Cart and Harness, twenty four Stone of Wool, six Comb of Oats, and Sacks, also six Swine, worth 40*l.* 6*s.* On the 23d they made an Appraisement of the rest of the Corn and Cattle not yet disposed of: On the 26th they took away twenty seven Comb of Wheat, five Milch Cows, six Comb of Seed-Barley, an Horse, a Mare, a Cart and Harness, to the Value of 43*l.* And on the 28th they took away thirteen Comb of Barley, worth 3*l.* 8*s.* In all to the Value of 183*l.* 4*s.*

Excessive
Seizure.

The Behaviour of the Officers and Assistants, who made this Seizure, was very rude: They broke open the Doors, Drawers, and Chests, and threatened the Servants of the House with Sword and Pistol. To make themselves merry they roasted a Pigg, and laid so much Wood on the Hearth, that they set the Chimney on Fire, with which, and their Revelling, Curling, and Swearing, they affrighted the Wife of the said *William Roe* to the endangering of her Life: She being then great with Child, was delivered before her Time, and the Child died a few Days after. *John Roe* had desired one of his Neighbours to tarry with him in the House, but they turned him out, telling him, that the House was none of his, but the King's. Thus the Severity of the Law was aggravated by the Insolence of those who were employed to execute it.

Rude Beha-
viour of the
Officers.

On the 19th of the Month called May, the Officers of *Hempnall* came to the House of *Lewis Gage*, with a Warrant from *Francis Gardener*, Justice, fining him 10*l.* 15*s.* upon Information of a Meeting at his House some Months before, when the Informers pulled him from his Seat, threw him on the Floor, dragged him, by the Shoulders and Hair of his Head, out of Doors, and laid him on the Snow, bidding him lie there and rot. The like Barbarity they also exercised on several Others at that Meeting. The Officers took away his Household Goods, worth 20*l.* and four Loads of Hay, breaking open a Door to come at it: And on the 23d of the same Month they came again, when no Body was within, and brake open the Door, and carried away most of his remaining Household Goods to a Neighbouring Alehouse, the Keeper of which had bought three Loads of his Goods before. The Amount of those Goods, taken at both Times, was not less than 40*l.*

Abusive Usage
of L. Gage.

NORFOLK.
1684.

Seizure of
Cattle, &c.

J. Gooding
impoverished
by many
Seizures.

Seizing the
Effects of R.
Southgate.

More
Seizures.

Cruel Usage
of H. Ward.

Other grievous
Seizures.

About the same Time, *Jonatban Booty* and *Elizabeth Booty* his Mother, both of *Steaton-Michael*, having been prosecuted on the Statute for 20*l.* per Month for not coming to Church, had taken from them five Cows, and all their Household Goods, not leaving the poor Woman, who was blind and near eighty Years of Age, so much as a Bed or Pillow to lay her Head on. They carried away also his working Tools. The Whole of the Goods, taken from them, amounted to 48*l.* 3*s.*

John Gooding, of *Teasburgh*, for a Meeting at his House, on the 30th of the Month called *August* this Year, had Goods taken from him worth 7*l.* 13*s.* being the small Remainder of many former Seizures, so that they left him without any Utensils of Household, and not satisfied therewith, they took also some of his wearing Apparel. About a Fortnight after they came again, and searched for more Goods, but finding none, abused the Man and his Wife, and threatened to send them to Goal.

On the 12th of *September*, the Sheriff's Officers, or Persons who called themselves so, came to the House of *Robert Southgate*, and made a Seizure, leaving a Man in Possession till the 18th, when they drove away five Milch Cows worth 10*l.* five Swine worth 3*l.* eleven Sheep worth 3*l.* and two Horses worth 6*l.* They also took a Feather-bed, Bedding, and Chairs, worth 7*l.* A Cart, Harness, Bridle, Saddle, and Pannel, worth 6*l.* In all 35*l.*

On the 26th of the same Month, the Sheriff's Officers entered the House of *Henry Appleyard*, of *Saxlingham-Thorp*, demanding 80*l.* for the King. They seized all his Goods both within Doors and without, and appraised them at 9*l.* But when some of the Man's Neighbours, pitying his distressed Case, offered to buy them, they would not part with them again under 13*l.*

On the 1st of *October*, the Bayliffs of the Hundred came to the House of *Samuel Pike*, of *Hingham*, seized his Goods, and put a Man in Possession till the 7th, when they took away five Milch Cows, and a Feather-bed, worth 15*l.*

On the 16th of *October*, the Sheriff's Officers came to the House of *Henry Ward*, of *Hellgay*, saying, *They came to seize all he had for 100*l.* for the King*, which they instantly did, breaking open one Door, and seizing the Keys of the rest, secured them. They kept Possession four Days, swearing and hectoring in a most insolent Manner, to the great Terror of him and his Wife, being both infirm Persons, and near seventy Years of Age.

On the 18th they forcibly entered the Room, where the said *Henry's* Wife, a sickly Woman, lay, and pulled away her Bed out of the Room, scarce giving her Time to put on her Clothes, and leaving her only the Matt and Cords to lie on, while themselves lay on the Bed in another Room.

On the 20th they sold the Goods to several Persons, but refused to give the said *Henry* any Account of them, though often desired. So that the Value of them, which must have been considerable, was to him unknown.

On the 14th of *November*, *Robert Allen*, a Bayliff, with two Informers, came and seized Household Goods, and Shop Goods, of *Henry Jennipy*, of *Ellingham-magna*, and carried them away to the Value of 18*l.* not leaving him so much as a Bed to lie on.

On the same Day, the said Bayliff and Informers went to the House of *Winifred Dix*, of the same Town, Widow, (who then was, and had been above five Years a Prisoner for Tithes) and seized all they could find of hers, to the Value of 150*l.* which they sold for 23*l.* The Bayliff and his Assistants, with two Waggoners by them employed, consumed in Meat and Drink for themselves and their Horses, to the Value of 5*l.*

On the same Day also, they went to the House of *John Long*, of *Little-Ellingham*, and took away a Feather-bed, and the Furniture belonging to it, worth 3*l.*

On the 23d the Sheriff's Officers went to the House of *Robert Jarmin*, of *Shotshum*, demanding 220*l.* for the King. Having seized what he had, they left a Man in Possession, who with his Horse continued there eight Days. Then they went again to dispose of the Goods, and sold them for 19*l.* 10*s.*

On

On the 29th *Thomas Cockerill*, for a Fine of 10*l.* 5*s.* for Meeting, had, by Warrant from Justice *Low*, a Seizure made of one Hundred and forty Pair of Shoes, which the Officers left in his Shop till the 1st of *December*, and then took away one Hundred Pair of them, worth 10*l.* 10*s.*

NORFOLK.
1684.

On the 3d of *December*, *Anthony Alexander*, a Tanner in *Norwich*, by Warrant from the same Justice, had taken from him two Hundred Hides, worth 30*l.* but valued by the Appraisers, employed by the Distrainers, at 21*l.* 10*s.*

On the 26th of the Month called *January*, the said *Anthony Alexander*, for a Fine of 15*s.* for Meeting had taken from him by Warrant from *Nicholas Helwis*, Mayor, Leather to the Value of 1*l.* 10*s.*

In this Year were committed to *Norwich Castle*, on Proceffes for Absence from the National Worship, *Henry Wake*, *John Wasely*, *Matthew Bradbury*, *Katharine Haslewood*, *Robert Jarmin*, and *John George*; as was also *Nathanael Butler*, upon the Statute for 20*l.* per Month.

Imprison-
ments.

ANNO 1685. On the 31st Day of the Month called *March*, *Robert Southgate*, for being at a Meeting at *Wells*, had taken from him four Milch Cows, and eighteen Sheep, worth 12*l.* 10*s.* And at another Time two Horses, worth 7*l.* 10*s.*

Distress.

In the Month called *April*, *Thomas Laws*, *John Welberby*, *George Bragg*, *Robert Campling*, and *Richard Roberts*, were remaining Prisoners in *Yarmouth Goal*, whither they had been committed in the Year 1682 for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance. And at the same Time, *John Fiddeman*, *John Cade*, *Thomas Murford*, *John Gurney*, *William Meleham*, *Stephen Amos*, *James Mabew*, *John Elsegood*, *William Kiddle*, *John Fenn*, *Nicholas Comfit*, *Thomas Buddery*, *John DeFrance*, *William Waymer*, and *William Clayton*, were continuing Prisoners at *Norwich Goal*, having been for the same Cause committed thither about the Latter-end of the Year 1683. The Case of these last fifteen, as drawn up by themselves, is contained in the following Address, viz.

Prisoners in
Yarmouth
and Norwich.

" An ADDRESS of the PRISONERS at Norwich, to the
" REPRESENTATIVES of that City and County, humbly
" desiring them to take our suffering Condition into Consideration.

" WE, who have been great Sufferers for no other Cause but for wor-
" shipping God, and because it hath differed in Ceremony from the
" established Worship of the Nation, some have termed it Sedition and Re-
" bellion, and have prosecuted us as such, almost to the utter ruining of us in
" this World, some Times by Laws made against seditious Sectaries, and other
" Times as *Popish* Recufants, though our Endeavour hath been, and yet is, to
" keep a Conscience void of Offence toward God and all Men, as our Con-
" sciences bear us Witness, and also our Neighbours among whom we have lived,
" who have seen our peaceable Behaviour. And farther, our Willingness to give
" unto *Cæsar* the Things that are his. And although nothing has been alledged
" against us, but the Cause of our Worship, yet grievous have been our Suf-
" ferings as aforesaid, witness the Prisoners that are at this Day through the
" Nation, as also the Havock that has been made upon our Goods for many
" Years past by Bayliffs and mercenary Informers, who have not only abused
" us, but have domineered over and abused the Justices and Justice it self, for
" base and sinister Ends, which has ruined many Families, (of such as were
" always willing to submit to the Sword of Justice, that is for the Punishment
" of Evil-doers, and the Praise of them that do well) as we believe you are
" not unsensible of.
" Therefore we do humbly beseech you, as Opportunity offers it self, that
" you would make Intercession on our Behalf, that the heavy Burden may
" be taken off, and the Oppressed go free, so shall we be the more engaged
" to pray for the Prosperity of you and yours.

The Prisoners
Address to
their Repre-
sentatives.

" Thus

NORFOLK.
1685.

" Thus in Behalf of our selves, and our suffering Friends, from fifteen of
" us, who have been Prisoners onwards of two Years, because we cannot
" swear that which we hold and believe our Christian Duty, to wit, to practise
" true Allegiance to our Prince.

The 7th of the Month
called April, 1685.

Oath tendred.

These fifteen, at the Summer Assizes this Year, had the Oath of Allegiance again tendred them in Court, and were recommitted to Prison. The Oath was also at the same Time tendred to J. Pratt and William Hemsterlow, Prisoners in the Castle at Norwich, and they were returned to Prison for refusing to take it.

Seizure on
J. Booty.

On the 7th of the Month called June, three Informers came to the House of Jonathan Booty, of Steaton-Michael, where they found but three Persons assembled beside those of the Family, however they determined to make a Conventicle of it, and lodged their Information with Justice Houghton, who granted his Warrant to levy 20*l.* for the House, and 10*s.* for the said Jonathan and his Wife being at the Meeting in their own House: And on the 27th of the Fifth Month following, the said Informers, with the Constable and Warden of the Parish, came and took away Cattle, Hay, and Household Stuff, to the Value of 14*l.*

And on
S. Pike.

On the 6th of September this Year, the Sheriff's Bayliffs, with one Allen an Under-Goaler, and several of his Prisoners to assist them, came with a Warrant from the Sheriff, with an *Estreat* out of the *Exchequer* for 20*l.* per Month, to the House of Samuel Pike of Hingham, demanding 100*l.* for the King, but not shewing their Warrant. They seized all his Goods and Chattels, kept Possession of his House six Weeks, and about a Week after the Seizure sent him Prisoner to Norwich Castle: They lived upon the Premises, feeding themselves and their Horses at their own Will and Pleasure; insolently domineering over his Wife and Family, and took away two Milch Cows, and three Horses, worth 15*l.* A Sow and five Pigs, worth 2*l.* Corn, Hay, and Meslin, worth 49*l.* Two Carts, a Pair of Harrows, Part of a Plough, with Harness, to the Value of 8*l.* A Bed, Bedding, Brass, Pewter, and other Household Goods, to the Value of 7*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* Two Malt-Quarns, Utensils, and Tools of Husbandry, and other Things, worth 2*l.* 16*s.* Amounting in all, to 83*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*

Also on
W. Dix.

The same Persons went also to the House of Winifred Dix, Widow, (from whom they had last Year taken Goods worth 150*l.* as before mentioned) and seized all her Goods and Chattels, both within Doors and without, and drove and carried away five Cows, two Calves, and a Lamb, worth 17*l.* 15*s.* Corn, Hay, and Cheefe, to the Value of 32*l.* Four Beds, with the Bedclothes and Furniture, worth 18*l.* Two Carts and Harness, worth 8*l.* Wool, Pewter, Brass, and other Household Goods, to the Value of 20*l.* 10*s.* Amounting in all, to 96*l.* 5*s.*

Hard Case.

This poor Widow had at that Time several fatherless Children, and was then in Prison for Tithes, where she had been near six Years. Grievous was her Case, who while under close Restraint and Confinement, suffered such spoiling of her Goods for not going to Church, which in her Circumstances was impossible to do.

More Distresses.

The same Bayliffs took from Henry Jennipy, of Ellingham-magna, Goods worth 20*l.* being almost all he had left of the Spoil they made last Year.

On the 8th of the same Month, they took from Thomas True, of East-Dereham, the Covering of his Bed, and Yarn, worth 1*l.* 3*s.*

On the 10th they took from Christopher Keddel, of Ellingham-magna, four Milch Cows worth 10*l.* And two Shotlings, a Silver Spoon, Brass, Pewter, &c. worth 12*l.* 19*s.* making together 22*l.* 19*s.*

On the 12th they went with their Assistants to the House of Edward Miles of Thaxton, demanding 120*l.* for the King; and without producing their Warrant,

Warrant, took Possession of his Effects, viz. his Corn, Cattle, Hay, Household Goods, &c. which they carried away and consumed, to the Amount of 116*l.* 18*s.* They kept Possession several Weeks, keeping Horses and Men there at a great Expence, sitting up at unreasonable Hours in the Night, drinking, swearing, and cursing, to the great Terror and Disturbance of him and his Family. By the Seizure of his Horses they prevented the Tilling of his Land in order to sow his Winter Corn, and by their taking away his Corn and Cheese, laid up for his Family's Provision, they obliged him to buy Food for his Household, which he had no sooner done, but those Spoilers, sometimes six or seven of them together, presently devoured what he had bought. In short, their Proceedings were barbarous and illegal. The said Allen, Under-Goaler, and his Prisoners, made an Inventory and pretended Appraisement of the Goods, without rendring any Account to the Owners, and carried them off under Colour of having bought them of the Sheriff. So they never made any Returns of what they had once laid their Hands on.

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Barbarous and
illegal Proceed-
ings.

On the 22d of the same Month, they went to the House of James Denton of Blowfield, saying, *They came to seize all he had for the King.* They got the Keys of his House, and kept Possession; took out of his Cupboard 15*l.* in Money, and so terrified his Wife, who was not of his Persuasion, that she borrowed 12*l.* more for them, to prevent their carrying away her Household Goods: Which Sums of Money, with two Silver Spoons, some Books, and other Things they took, amounted to 30*l.*

Other severe
Seizures.

On the 24th Robert Nicholas, and George Leveridge, Bayliffs of the Hundred, made a Seizure of the Goods of William Stonewich, of Cranworth, and drove away two Cows worth 4*l.* And on the next Day were carting away his Goods, when some of the Neighbours redeemed them by paying the Bayliffs 7*l.* more.

The same Bayliffs took from Samuel Dover, of Attlebury, three Milch Cows, and two Heifers, worth 9*l.*

And on the 2d of October, they took from William Freeman, of Attlebury, a Load of Hay worth 2*l.* and on the 15th, two Load of Hay worth 4*l.* 10*s.*

On the 5th of the same Month, the same Bayliffs went to the House of John Roe and William Roe, of Longham (whom they had grievously distrained the last Year, as before related) and seized and drove away twenty two Milch Kine and a Bull, worth 57*l.* Seven Horses with Carts, Harness, &c. worth 46*l.* And on the 14th they took an Horse, Saddle, Cloth, and three Cheeses, worth 2*l.* 14*s.* amounting in all, to 105*l.* 14*s.*

When these Sufferers informed the Sheriff of the Value of these Goods, he answered, that *He had no Account brought him of any more than 38*l.* but withal threatened the Complainers, that If they appeared against him on this Occasion, he would ruin them to all Intents and Purposes.*

Complainers
threatened by
by the Sheriff.

From Henry Skinner, a poor Journeyman Shoemaker, they took all they could find of his, amounting but to 20*s.*

Several
Seizures.

From Simon Brooks, of Attlebury, they took Hay, Corn, and Household Goods, which some of his Neighbours, in Compassion to him, redeemed for 4*l.* 10*s.*

They also made Distress on the Goods of John Enatts, of Lumpton, a Member of the established Church, for his Wife's frequenting the Quakers Meeting, which Goods he redeemed by paying 3*l.*

In this Year, Richard Ransom was remaining a Prisoner in Norwich Castle for Tithes; as was Daniel Phillips on a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo*; and Thomas Foster on a *Significavit* of Contempt, upon Processes against him in the Ecclesiastical Court.

In this Year also, Simon Brooks, of Attlebury, was committed to Prison, and close confined, at the Suit of one Beetly, Priest of that Town, for Tithes.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

ANNO 1686. In this and the two preceding Years were taken for Tithe of Corn and Hay, from William King and Martha Hart, of North-Walsbam, Henry Miller, of Wickmore, John Allen and William Booty, of Lammis, Edward Miles of Thaxton, and Samuel Pike, of Hingham, so much in Quantity as

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Thbss.
1686.

amounted to the Value of 39 l. 12 s. And in the same Years, from Robert Dey and John Goodwin, of Tasburgh, William Sharning, of Branton, Nathanael Booty, of Coltishall, Elizabeth Ransom, of Gunton, and William Beck, of Swafield, Corn and Hay worth 13 l. 10 s. 6 d.

ANNO 1687. Taken this Year from the aforesaid Robert Dey, Henry Miller, Nathanael Booty, William Booty, Elizabeth Ransom, Samuel Pike, and Edward Miles, Corn and Hay to the Value of 18 l. 12 s.

ANNO 1688. Taken from several of the before-named Persons, and Thomas Blomfield, in Corn and Hay, to the Amount of 16 l.

ANNO 1689. Taken from the aforesaid Samuel Pike, and from Christopher Kiddell, and Francis Dix, of Ellingham, Corn and Sheep, worth 5 l. 13 s. 4 d.

ANNO 1690. Taken from diverse of the Persons before-named, and from John Sayer and Henry Jenipy, of Great-Ellingham, Francis Baldwin, of the same, John Priest, of Gunningham, William Colby, of Coltishall, and Henry Wake, of Gaywood, for Tithes of Corn, Hay, Lambs, and Wool, to the Value of 16 l. 7 s.

C H A P. XXVII.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

NORTH-
AMPTON-
SHIRE.
1654.

ANNO 1654.

Suffering of
W. Dewsberry.

Imprisonment
of him and
J. Storr.

THE first Suffering of this People in this County was that of William Dewsberry, who about the Beginning of December, being in the Street at Wellingborough, was called to by Thomas Andrews, Priest of that Town, who spoke to him thus, Give over deceiving the People, lest the Plagues of God fall upon thee. William replied, Wherein do I deceive them? The Priest answered, In telling them, there is no Original Sin. William asked him again, Didst thou hear me say so? To which the Priest made no Answer, but went away. About three Weeks after this, William went into the Steeple-house, and waited till the Priest had done, and then spake to the People, who gave Attention to what he said. After which he thus spake to the Priest, Thou hast accused me of deceiving the People; prove thy Accusation now before the People, or acknowledge the Falshood of it. But the Priest, without giving any Answer, departed. Upon this, William was haled out of the House into the Yard, where he again preached to the People, who stood quietly to hear him, till the High-Constable came, and laying hold of him, led him to the Market-place, saying, He would bring Evidence against him for Blasphemy. After a short Time he was let go again, and lodged at a Friend's House that Night. Next Day, being the 28th of December, a Constable came to him with a Warrant to apprehend the Quaker, but without mentioning his Name: However the Constable carried him to a Justice of the Peace, who committed him to Northampton Goal by a Mittimus, which was said to contain a Charge of Blasphemy, wherefore Dewsberry was somewhat earnest in requesting a Copy of it, but that, though both just and reasonable, was refused him. By the same Mittimus the Justice also sent Joseph Storr to Prison with him, who only came to hear the Issue of his Friend's Examination, and against whom no Accusation was laid, but such was the Justice's Prejudice, that he observed not any Distinction in their Cases; it was enough to him that they were both Quakers. In the Prison they were kept twelve Steps under Ground, among Thieves and Murderers, till the Quarter Sessions on the 10th of the next Month,

Month, when they were brought before the Bench of Justices, where their *Mittimus* was read, but they were again refused a Copy of it: Nor did the Justices take any farther Cognizance of their Cause, but remanded them to Prison till the next Assizes, to be held about two Months after. At this Sessions *Francis Ellington*, who came thither to hear the Trial of his Friends, was charged by the Justices with a Misdemeanour, respecting a Letter he had sent to one of them; and under that Pretence they required of him Sureties for the good Behaviour, which he refusing to give, was also committed to Prison. Before the next Assizes, *Henry Williamson* having attempted to speak to the People, after the Priest had done his Office, was by them sorely beaten and abused, and afterward committed to the same Prison with the Others.

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F. Ellington.

And H. Williamson.

At the Assizes, which began on the 10th of the Month called *March* 1654, *William Dewsberry*, *Joseph Storr*, and *Henry Williamson*, were brought before the Judges, *Hales* and *Windham*, and were examined in Manner following, viz.

Judge *Hales*. Art thou Dewsberry?

W. Dewsberry. Yea, I am so called.

Judge *Hales*. Where dost thou live?

W. D. I live in the Lord, and I have a Wife and three Children at *Wakefield* in *Yorkshire*.

Judge. What camest thou into this Country to do, that thou didst not stay in thy own Country with thy Wife and Children?

W. D. I staid in that Country with my Wife and Children, until the Father revealed his Son in me, and called me forth from my Wife and Children to declare his Word of Eternal Life, which he hath manifested to my Soul in the great Work of Regeneration, in the new Covenant of Life in *Christ Jesus*: The Everlasting Gospel I am sent to preach to those that dwell upon the Earth.

Judge. I fear it is a Delusion, and thine own Fancies, and not the Truth.

W. D. Time will make it manifest.

Judge. Thou drawest People together, and attest against Ministry and Magistracy.

W. D. As thou standest in the Presence of God, take Heed of hearkning to false Accusations. Ministry and Magistracy, which is of God, I own: But those that are called Ministers of Christ, and walk contrary to Scripture, I disown.

Judge. But who are they that walk contrary to Scripture?

W. D. They that abide not in the Doctrine of Christ: But have the chief Places in the Assemblies; stand praying in the Synagogues, love Greeting in the Markets, are called of Men *Masters*, which Practice Christ cried *Wo* against; and they that walk in it, walk contrary to Scripture.

Judge. These are small Things to speak of.

W. D. There is nothing small the Lord commands.

Judge. Thou sayst well.

Then the Judge enquired of the Court, what they had against these Men?

W. D. That is it we would have manifest, what Law we have transgress'd.

Judge. Produce what you have against them, and I shall proceed according to Law.

Clerk of the Peace. Here are Papers which Dewsberry and Storr had, which are against the Lord-Protector.

W. D. The Papers they took from me, which they say are against the Lord-Protector, was the Word of the Lord I was moved to write, which I sent to him privately with Care, the One in the Fourth Month in the last Year, and the Other hath been privately with Care delivered to him; and privately I kept the Copies of the Papers, until I was apprehended by Virtue of a Warrant granted forth by Justice *Pentlow*, and there was not any Name, but for One whom he had in Scorn called a *Quaker*, and with that Warrant the Constable had me before him, who commanded the Constable to see if I had any Money; which was done, and my Money taken from me, and after a little Time he gave it to me again. Then they took those Papers from me, which

Examination
of Dewsberry,
Storr, and
Williamson,
before Judge
Hales.

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which I had privately on me in a Letter-Case, which here they publish publicly as an Evidence against me.

Judge. *Read the Paper.*

When Part of it was read, the Judge bid them Give over; saying, *This Paper is not to be published.*

W. D. It is not my Mind they should be published. The Spirit of Truth, that gave them forth, did direct them privately to the Hands of the Lord Protector.

Judge. *How durst thou write to him in such an high Language, as from the Spirit of the Lord?*

W. D. They in whom the Spirit of the Lord is, write from the Spirit, and he that hath not the Spirit, is none of his.

Judge. *But I fear it is not from the Spirit, for many pretend the Spirit, and the Divine Light, and Revelations: But how shall we know they are the Truth according to the Scriptures?*

W. D. The Scripture cannot be known, but by the pure divine Light of Christ, which enlightens every one that comes into the World; which pure Light Christ hath given to every one, a Measure, to try the Spirits in them, whether they be of God or not: Every Spirit that confesseth Christ come in the Flesh, is of God; but he that denies Christ come in the Flesh, is the Spirit of Antichrist. And this Light gave the Scriptures forth, which Light leads to Christ, who reveals the Father to the Soul, which gives up to be guided by him. So comes the Soul to know God by the Revelation of Jesus Christ, in whom they are known that walk in the Spirit, by their Fruits in all their Words and Works. And the Prophet Amos, that had the Spirit of the Lord, and from the Spirit declared the Word of the Lord to the King of Israel, the People could not bear his Words.

Judge. *Thou sayst well, if thou dost as thou sayst, but this, it may be, will be expected, and I think it will be fair, to give Bail for your Appearance at the next Assizes.*

W. D. First make manifest what Law we have transgressed, before Bail be required.

After this they were set aside, and the Judge proceeded to other Business, till the Court was ready to break up in the Evening, and then the Goaler asked the Judge, *What he should do with those Yorkshire Men.*

Judge. *Bring them before the Court.* Which was done.

Then some in the Court said, *Take off their Hats*, and two of their Hats were taken off, and as they were about to take off William Dewsberry's Hat, the Judge said, *Let it be on*, and bade them put on the Hats of the other two again, which was done at his Command: Then he spake to W. Dewsberry, saying,

Judge. *Now I see what thou art; and thy Vizard and Form of fair Words is seen, that thou art not the Man thou pretendest to be.*

W. D. Vizards and Formality I deny; but the Power of God I own and witness, in which I stand, and am subject to it, and to the Ordinance of Man for Conscience-sake.

Judge. *Now thou art commanded: Take off thy Hat.*

W. D. Honour is not in pulling off the Hat, but in obeying the just Commands of God, which is according to the Will of God; and my Hat offends not any; but who are offended at it, may take it off: I shall not resist them. But there is not any Scripture that expresses any Honour to be in putting off the Hat.

Judge. *What! must we do nothing but what is exprest in Scripture, for our Apparel what we shall put on.*

W. D. Yea, the Scripture saith, *Let your Adorning be with modest Apparel.*

Judge. *Art thou Judge, that thou standest covered, and wilt not uncover, as other Prisoners do?*

W. D.

W. D. What I do, God is my Witness, I do it not in Contempt to any, but in Obedience to the Power of God for Conscience-sake.

Judge. If you will not stand as Prisoners, I will not do any Thing concerning you, but here I found you, and here I shall leave you.

W. D. We have been above ten Weeks in the Low Goal, and not the Breach of any Law found against us : And we do stand subject to the Power of God, what he suffers thee to do with us.

Then the Judge spake to *Henry Williamson*.

Judge. Henry Williamson, where dwellest thou ?

H. W. In Cumberland is my outward Being.

Judge. What brought thee hither ?

H. W. The Lord moved me to come hither.

Judge. What to do ?

H. W. To declare the Word of the Lord, which he hath manifested to my Soul through Jesus Christ.

Judge. How dost thou know the Lord moved thee to come hither ?

H. W. By the Spirit which he hath given me.

Judge. Thou madest a great Disturbance in the Church : Thou stoodest with thy Hat on in the Time of Prayer.

H. W. God is my Witness : No Disturbance I made, for peaceably I stood, as the other People did : I spake no Words : I moved my Hands against none : And as soon as the Man had done speaking, they haled me out, some by the Hair of my Head, and tearing it, and others dashing me in the Face with their Books : And whether they broke the Peace or I, judge ye.

Judge. It may be Sureties may be required of you for your good Behaviour.

H. W. If I have transgressed any Law, I am willing to suffer by it.

Judge. But if you be Men that intend to walk in good Behaviour, as you pretend, it is but a small Matter ; and if you will find Sureties to appear at the next Assizes, I will set you free.

H. W. We are of no ill Behaviour, for we are bound to good Behaviour of God, and he that walks in the Truth is of no ill Behaviour.

On the 12th of the same Month, Judge *Windham* came to the same Bench where Judge *Hales* was, and being together, they called for the Prisoners, *Dewsberry*, *Storr*, and *Williamson*, and again examined them as follows, viz.

Judge Windham. Take off their Hats. Which was done.

Judge Hales. Read the Evidence against them.

Clerk. William Dewsberry and Joseph Storr had Papers found on them against the Lord Protector, and William Dewsberry did go into the Congregation at *Wellingborough*, and disturbed the Minister and the Congregation in standing with his Hat on in the Time of the Sermon and Prayer ; and then declared these Words, *The Priests teach for Hire, and the People love to have it so* : And railed on the Minister in the Streets, calling him *Hireling* ; and made a great Disturbance in the Market, and then went into *Francis Ellington's* House, and spoke forth at a Chamber-Window to the People in the Streets, and so made a great Disturbance.

Judge Hales. What sayst thou ? Didst thou speak these Words ?

W. D. Railing I deny : Neither did I speak these Words to *Thomas Andrews*, whom they call a Minister, in the Streets : If you will hear, I shall declare the Ground of my Going into the Steeple-house at *Wellingborough*. I was going in the Town, near to *Thomas Andrews's* House, whom they call Minister, who called to me as I was going in the Streets, Give over deceiving the People, lest the Plagues of God fall upon thee. I answered him, Dost thou say I deceive the People ? He replied, I say thou dost. I said to him, Make it appear wherein I do deceive them. He answered, Thou tellest them there is no Original Sin. I then asked him, Didst thou hear me say any such Words ? Then he went away. Hearing Words he gave forth, which he said there was spoken, and was not ; for the Truth's Sake, that not any Lie should rest upon it, when the Priest, *Thomas Andrews*, and the People were met together at the Steeple-

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house, I did go in, and spake not a Word until the People were dismissed: Then I declared the Word of the Lord to them before they went away. And I spake to *Thomas Andrews* to prove there before the People, what he had falsely accused me of, or to own his false Accusation, but he did go away, and did not answer one Word at all, and all were peaceable, till *Henry Smith*, of *Wellingborough*, haled me by Force out of the Steeple-house: And as I was declaring the Truth to the People in the Yard, *William Baw*, called High-Constable, took me from that Place, and said, *He would bring Evidence against me for Blasphemy*, and had me to and fro in the Market, and so made the Tumult that was made among the People; but when he could not prove what he said, he let me go, who went to a Friend's House, and came no more in the Market that Day: So the Peace that was broken, and the Tumult that was made, was by them, and not by me.

Judge *Windham*. *Dewsberry, thou art well known in the North, and in Yorkshire; there I have heard of thee; but where wast thou born?*

W. D. My natural Birth was in *Yorkshire*.

Judge *Windham*. *Dost thou begin to cant? Is there any other Birth?*

W. D. Yea. Except ye be regenerate and born again, ye cannot see the Kingdom of God. Which Birth I witness.

Judge *Windham*. *At what Place in Yorkshire wast thou born?*

W. D. My natural Birth was at a Town called *Allithorp*, nine Miles from *York*, towards *Hull*.

Judge *Windham*. *Where hast thou been thy Time?*

W. D. When I was thirteen Years of Age, I was bound Apprentice to a Clothmaker, in the West Part of *Yorkshire*, at a Town called *Holbeck* near *Leeds*.

Judge *Windham*. *Didst Thou serve thy Time?*

W. D. I did stay till the Time was near expired, and then the Wars began in this Nation, and I did go into the Service of the Parliament.

Judge *Windham*. *Dost thou deny all Popish Tenets?*

W. D. *Popish* Tenets I deny; and all Tenets contrary to the pure Doctrine of Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Judge *Windham*. *Dost thou own the Scriptures to be a Rule to walk by?*

W. D. The Scriptures I own, and the pure Light and Power of Christ Jesus that gave them forth, to guide in an holy Conversation according to the Scripture, and he that walks contrary to it, is condemned by it.

Judge *Windham*. *But if thou and Fox had us in your Power, you would soon have your Hands imbrued in Blood.*

W. D. It is not so: The Spirit of Truth, which we witness in us, is peaceable, and doth neither Violence, nor shed Blood: And all that are guided by the Spirit of Truth, their Hands are bound from offering Violence, or shedding of Blood.

J. Storr. It is well known in the Nation, their Sufferings and Stonings, and never lift up an Hand against any.

Judge *Windham*. *It is because you have not Power; but here is Evidence against you for breaking the Peace. Will you give Bond for your Appearance at the next Assizes?*

W. D. It is the Liberty of the Laws of this Nation, that all that profess the Faith of Christ Jesus, may walk in Uprightness to their Faith in him, without any Breach of the Laws. And I require a Law may be read unto us, that the Evidence brought against us is a Breach of, that by the Law we may be convinced of the Transgression of it, before any Bail may be required of us.

Judge *Windham*. *We are Judges, and we conceive and judge what is charged against you to be a sufficient Ground to require Bail of you, for your Appearance at the Assizes.*

W. D. Though you be Judges, you are Judges of a Law, and are to judge according to the Law, which is your Rule to judge by, and that Law I would have you to read us, and if we have transgressed it, judge us according to it.

Judge

Judge Windham. *You are Transgressors of the Law, in that you are not subject to Government and Authority in not pulling off your Hats.*

W. D. We are subject to the Government and the Power of God, and to the Ordinance of Man for Conscience-sake, but shew us in Scripture, which is a true Testimony of the Power of God, in which we stand, that putting off the Hat is required in Subjection to Authority, and read us a National Law, which is the Ordinance of Man, that requires any such Thing.

Judge Windham. *It is the Practice and Custom of the Nation.*

W. D. The Customs of the Heathen are vain.

Judge Hales. *From the Evidence which hath been read, we expect Bond for your Appearance, as hath been required, at the next Assizes.*

W. D. Not any Law we have transgressed: If you know the Breach of any Law by us, let it be read, that we may by it know the Ground what Bail is required for, and what we are to answer at the next Assizes.

Judge Hales. *What sayst thou, Storr? Wilt thou enter into Bond for thy Appearance at the next Sessions?*

Storr. Where are those that have given Evidence against me, that I may answer to the Particulars of those Things charged against me?

Judge Hales. *If thou wilt give Bail for thy Appearance at the Assizes, then shall those that have informed against thee appear Face to Face.*

Storr. We are bound by a stronger Tie than any outward Bond.

Judge Hales. *What sayst thou, Williamson? Wilt thou enter Bond for thy Appearance at the next Assizes.*

Williamson. I am not of any ill Behaviour; but am bound to good Behaviour by the Power of God.

Judge Hales. *If you will not find Sureties, you must lie here till the next Assizes. Look to them, Goaler.*

W. D. Do with us what thou hast Power.

Accordingly they were carried back to Prison, and there confined, as before, in the nasty Low Goal among Felons, till another Assize. In the mean Time several others of their Friends were also committed to Prison, viz.

1. *John Whitehead*, who some Time before occasionally went into the Steeple-house at *Wellingborough*, and tarried quietly till their publick Worship was ended, and then asked the Priest some Questions concerning his Doctrine and Practice, to which the Priest made no Answer, but went away, calling him *Madman*: However the People, who generally staid, were soon convinced he was not so; for his powerful Preaching, and rational Discourse, was well accepted by many of the Priest's Hearers: The Report of which so nettled him, that he challenged *John Whitehead* to a Dispute at a Time and Place appointed. That Conference made the Priest yet more uneasy, because he mist his Aim, which was to have some Matter of Complaint to the Magistrates. A little Time after, he sends a Message to *John* to meet him at Mr. *Penilow's*, (who was a Justice of the Peace) that he might hear and determine the Dispute between them. But this Snare was laid too open, and Answer was returned, that he must appoint some other Place. He then sends for *John* to meet him at a Lecture in the Steeple-house, where several other Ministers and People were to be: This he accepted, came thither, and quietly waited till their Service was over: Then he proposed a Question to the Preachers, which they refused to answer, but *Andrews*, the Priest, began to accuse *John Whitehead*, who defended himself with plain Truth, to the Conviction of many of the People; so that the Priests being drove to their last Argument, *Byfield*, Parson of *Torrington*, laid violent Hands on *John*, and dragged him by Force out of the Steeple-house. A Warrant was procured to apprehend him as a Vagrant, and he was carried before two Justices met on purpose. He told them he was no Vagrant, and that he could prove his Habitation and Manner of Living by one of his Neighbours, a substantial Man, if they would admit him to come in. Upon this *Marmaduke Storr* was called, who informed them of the Place of *John's* Residence, and that he had a Wife and Family whom he reputably maintained.

Then

Returned to
Prison.

Imprisonment
of J. White-
head.

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1654.

M. Storr.

Then they asked *Marmaduke* his Name and Place of Abode, and what was his Business in those Parts. He told them his Name, and that he lived at *Holderness* in the Eastern Parts of *Yorkshire*, that he was a Grazer, and held Land for that Purpose, that he came thither to visit and help his Brother *Joseph Storr*, a Prisoner at *Northampton*, and was going thence into *Staffordshire* to renew the Lease of his Farm then expiring. The Account he gave, both of himself and his Neighbour, was so unexceptionable that the Justices were at a Stand, and after some Consultation with the Priests, dropt the Pretence of Vagrancy, and concluded to ensnare them both another Way. They asked *Marmaduke*, whether he would swear to the Truth of what he had said, and finding that he would not, they tendred them both the Oath of Abjuration. They answered, that they had sufficiently demonstrated their good Affection to the Commonwealth, in assisting it with their Persons and Estates in Times of its greatest Straits, and that they were well known to be no *Papists*, but that they could not Swear for Conscience-sake. They required of them Sureties for their good Behaviour, upon refusing which, they were committed to Prison on the 17th of the Month called *March* 1654, and at the next Sessions were ordered to be kept till the Assizes. By this Imprisonment *Marmaduke Storr* was prevented from getting his Lease renewed, so that his Family were constrained to remove, and carry off his Stock at a Day's Notice, to his very great Detriment.

E. Ferman.

2. *Edward Ferman*, when the Priest had ended his Performance in the Steeple-house at *Frandon*, and was coming out, went in and spake to the People. The Priest, on purpose to ensnare him, goes back again to his Pulpit, desires the People to tarry, names a Text, and falls to preaching; but soon left off again, pretending that *Edward* had interrupted him, and under that Pretence charges a Constable with him, and carries him before a Justice, who finding no just Cause for the Priest's Complaint, sought another Occasion against *Edward*, and committed him to Prison for three Months, under a groundless Charge of being a *Vagrant*.

T. Cocket.

3. *Thomas Cocket*, of *Dingley*, hearing of the said *Ferman's* Imprisonment, applies to the Justice who committed him, and acquaints him that *Ferman* was no Vagrant, but an industrious honest Man, and of good Repute. The Justice, instead of relieving the injured Man, takes Occasion against the Complainant, who a little before had writ a Letter to one of the Justices who had sent a Friend of his to Prison; which Letter was as follows,

" JOHN BROWN !

A Letter
to Justice
Brown.

" I Went to *William Steel's* House, where was a Friend Prisoner, and desired to speak with him, he told me he had an Order from thee that none may speak with him. Is this to do as thou wouldst be done unto? Thou hast a Light of Christ in thy Conscience, which bears witness with the Law of God, and tells thee, thou shouldst do as thou wouldst be done unto. In persecuting one of Christ's little Ones, thou hast done it unto him, and Wo is thy Portion.

" A Lover of that which is pure in thy Conscience.

The 4th of the First
Month 1654-5.

" THOMAS COCKETT."

This Letter was called an *abusive One*, and from thence the Justice took Occasion to require of *Cockett* Sureties for his good Behaviour, and for his refusing to give such Security, sent him to Prison. The Goaler refused to give him a Copy of his *Mittimus*, but when it was read at the next Sessions, the principal Matter charged against him, was the writing that Letter, which he therefore desired might be read in Court; but that was not granted; and the Justices ordered his Continuance in Prison till the next Assizes.

Imprisonment
of J. Hutchin
and M. Pat-
teson.

4. *John Hutchin* and *Michael Patteson*, who were sent to Prison, at the Instigation of the Priest of *Wellingborough*, under Pretence of their having disturbed

disturbed him in his Office ; though they had only stood still and silent while he was preaching.

ANNO 1655. At the Affizes at Northampton, on the 21st of the Month called July, came on the Examination of *William Dewsberry, Joseph Storr, Henry Williamson, John Whitehead, Marmaduke Storr, Thomas Cockett, and Francis Ellington*, before *Edward Atkins*, Judge of the Affize ; as follows, viz.

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Judge. *William Dewsberry ! What art thou here for ?*

W. D. The *Mittimus* will expresse what I was committed for ; but a Copy of it I am denied by the Keeper of the Goal.

Proceedings at
Northamp-
ton Affizes.

Judge. *What is thy Name ?*

W. D. Unknown to the World.

Judge. *Let us know what Name that is, that the World knows not.*

W. D. It is known in the Light, and not any can know it but him that hath it ; but the Name the World knows me by, is *William Dewsberry*.

Judge. *What Countryman art thou ?*

W. D. Of the Land of *Canaan*.

Judge. *That is afar off.*

W. D. Nay, it is near, for all that dwell in God, are in the holy City, *Jerusalem*, which comes down from Heaven, where the Soul is in Rest, and enjoys the Love of God in *Jesus Christ*, in whom the Union is with the Father of Light.

Judge. *That is true : But are you ashamed of your Country ? Is it a Disparagement for you to be born in England ?*

W. D. Nay : For the Truth's Sake, I am free to declare, according to the Knowledge of the World : My natural Birth was in *Yorkshire*, nine Miles from *York*, towards *Hull*.

Judge. *You pretend to be extraordinary Men, and to have an extraordinary Knowledge of God.*

W. D. We witness the Work of Regeneration to be an extraordinary Work wrought in us by the Spirit of God.

Judge. *But the Apostles wrought with their Hands in their Callings.*

W. D. They had Callings in the World : Some were Fishermen ; *Paul*, a Tentmaker : But when they were called to the Ministry of Christ, they left their Callings to follow Christ where he led them by his Spirit to preach the Word : And I had a Calling in the World as they had, and in it did abide, until the Father revealed his Son in me, and called me from my Calling I had in the World, to preach the Eternal Word he had made known to me in the great Work of Regeneration.

Judge. *Why didst thou not abide in thy own Country, and teach People in those Parts ?*

W. D. There I did stay, until I was called thence to go where I was led by the Spirit of the Lord ; and as many as are led by the Spirit of God, are the Sons and Daughters of God, and they that have not the Spirit of Christ, are none of his.

Judge. *You say well : For we must in Charity conclude, that every one in this Place hath the Spirit of God in them : But how do you know that you are guided by the Spirit of God ?*

W. D. They that have the Spirit of God are known by their Fruits, and he that believeth in *Jesus Christ*, and is guided by his Spirit, hath the Witness in himself.

Judge. *That is true : Yet notwithstanding I see by your Carriage, that what my Brother Hales did at the last Affizes, in requiring Bonds for your good Behaviour, he might justly do it ; for you are against Magistrates and Ministers.*

W. D. Make that manifest wherein we are against them.

Judge. To the Clerk of the Peace. *What have you against these Men ?*

Clerk. Here is an Information given upon Oath by Mr. *Robert Beton*, that *William Dewsberry*, on the 29th of December 1654, did go into the Church in *Wellingborough*, and stood with his Hat on in Time of Sermon and Prayer, and

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after the Minister had done, he spake these Words, *The Priests preach for Hire, and the People love to have it so : But what will ye do in the End thereof ?* With other railing Words, which made Disturbance among the People.

Judge. *What have you against Storr and Williamson ?* But nothing was produced against them.

Judge. *I shall take Course, that those that have disturbed the Ministers, before I go forth of the Town, shall be indicted.*

W. D. It is the Liberty of the Law of this Nation, that any that are brought Prisoners before those that sit to judge their Causes, may speak for themselves the Truth, to witness against the false Information given in against them, and that Liberty I take to manifest the Ground of my Going into the Steeple-house at *Wellingborough* : As I was going in the Street, *Thomas Andrews* (call'd Minister of that Town) called to me with these Words, *Give over deceiving the People, lest the Plagues of God fall on thee.* I replied, *Dost thou say I deceive the People ? Make it manifest wherein I deceive them.* He answered, *Thou sayst there is not any Original Sin.* I then asked him, *Didst thou hear me say so ?* To which he would not answer, but fled away. I being falsely accused by *Thomas Andrews*, afterwards when he met with the People at the Steeple-house, I went into it for the Truth's Sake, and after he had done, I propounded this Question to him, that he would prove there before the People, what he had openly accused me of, in saying, *there was no Original Sin*, but he would not answer, but in Silence fled away : And what I here declare that I did, is not any Breach of the Law of this Nation.

Judge. *But in that you are found wandring in the Country, you break the Law ; for there is an ancient Law, that if any did go from their Dwellings to travel in the Country without a Certificate from some Justice, they were to be taken as wandring Persons.*

W. D. If there be any such Law, read it to us : And if there be such a Law, in thy Conscience thou knowest it is contrary to Scripture ; for the Apostles and Ministers of Christ went to and fro in the Country, preaching the Word of Eternal Life, and there were added to the Church daily such as should be saved, and the Number of the Saints and Brethren was daily increased ; and the Law that is in Force in this Nation, doth allow all that profess Faith in *Jesus Christ*, to have free Liberty to walk in the Faith, which is according to Scripture.

Judge. *Thou hast an eloquent Tongue, and thou art proud of it.*

W. D. Pride I deny, but the Truth I witness, which will judge Pride, and torment all that live in it, until it be destroyed.

Then the Judge spake to *Joseph Storr*.

Judge. *Is thy Name Joseph Storr ?*

Storr. Yes.

Judge. *What art thou here for ?*

Storr. I have been twenty nine Weeks in Prison among those arraigned for Felony and Murder, and know not for what Cause I am imprisoned, and never any Accuser appeared to my Face to prove me the Transgressor of any Law, and I desire that my Accusers may appear before my Face, that I may have a Trial according to Law, for Judge *Hales* promised at the last Assizes, if I would appear at this Assizes, my Accusers should appear to my Face.

The Judge said no more to him, but asked,

Which is Williamson ? What have you against him ?

John Brown, the Justice that committed him, whispered to the Judge, who said no more to *Williamson*, but called for *Whitehead*.

Judge. *Is thy Name John Whitehead ?*

J. W. Yea, I am so called.

But he was examined no farther.

J. W. I desire the Liberty which the Law of the Nation allows, that I may be heard speak, and have a Trial, having been kept eighteen Weeks in Prison, and no Accuser hath appeared to prove me the Transgressor of any Law.

Judge.

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Judge. *Common Fame is a good Accuser, though not a good Judge; yet I am satisfied, from what I have heard, to continue you in Prison, unless you will lay in Bond to be of good Behaviour, and appear at the next Assizes, for you are by common Fame accused to be a dangerous People, and Breakers of the publick Peace.*

J. W. So the People of God (by the common Fame of the World) was in all Ages every where spoken against, and accused to be Disturbers of the Peace, as Paul was accused to be a Mover of Sedition, through the whole World.

Then the Judge spake to Marmaduke Storr.

Judge. *Is your Name Marmaduke Storr.*

M. S. My Name is so called: I desire to have my Trial according to Law, for I was taken in my Journey, and imprisoned from my Management of about seven score Pounds *per Annum*, and have never yet forfeited my Liberty, but appeared in serving the Common-wealth in its greatest Straits, for which they are indebted to me about two Hundred Pounds, as my Commission, Debenture, and Claim upon Record, will make appear.

His Cause was no farther examined.

Judge. *Which is Ellington?*

T. E. I am so called.

Judge. *What are you here for?*

T. E. I was in Bonds fifteen Weeks for my Appearance at the General Sessions, and when I appeared there, no Accuser came to my Face, nor was any Evidence read against me, to prove me the Breaker of any Law, and there I was committed, by those called Justices, to the Goal, where I have been kept in the Dungeon these thirteen Weeks among those arraigned for Felony and Murder, and have been taken from my outward Habitation which was at *Wellingborough*, within seven Miles of this Place, and have been deprived from my outward Calling which I lived in, and kept from my Wife and five small Children, and so am deprived of the Benefit of the Law of this Nation, which no Felon or Murderer that is here, is deprived of; for they have Liberty to speak for themselves, and to have a fair Trial according to Law, which is denied us.

Judge. To the Clerk of the Peace. *Where is your Evidence against these Men?*

Clerk. This Ellington is a Receiver of these Men, and here is a Letter that he writ to a Justice of Peace, wherein he doth accuse the Justice of doing Injustice, in committing *Dewsberry* and *Storr* to Prison.

Judge. *Why do you trouble me with that which there is no Matter of Fact in? I much wonder you should trouble a Judge of the Assize with such small Things, and not end them in your own Sessions, for we come hither to determine greater Matters.* Mr. Ellington! I have a great Love to you, bring a Man that lives in this Country: Will you enter into Bond for your good Behaviour, and to appear at the next Assizes?

F. E. I am of no evil Behaviour, neither to this Day hath any Thing been proved against me concerning it, and if it yet can be proved by any one Man here, that I have been of evil Behaviour, or have broken any Law of this Nation, I am present to answer it, and to give in Bonds for my Liberty.

Judge. *You have transgressed the Law, in that you come to the Bar with your Heads covered, because it is a Contempt of Authority.*

F. E. There is no Law in this Nation requires any such Thing as putting off the Hat; if there be any, I desire it may be read, that so before the Country I may be convinced by the Law, before Bonds may be required.

Judge. *I shall deal favourably with you, for I shall take your own Bond to appear at the next Assizes.*

F. E. First prove me a Transgressor of the Law; for the righteous Law of God saith, *Where there is no Law, there is no Transgression*; and there is no Law in England that requires putting off the Hat, therefore it is not a Transgression: Therefore I desire I may have the Benefit of an *Englishman*, which is not denied to any Felon here among us; for I have to this Day stood always faithful to the Common-wealth, and have not forfeited any Liberty, but have hazarded my Life and Estate to procure Freedom, which now I am deprived of.

Judge.

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Judge. *If you will not put in Bond for your Behaviour, which I think is very reasonable: Take him away.*

F. E. For my Behaviour, if there be any here that can accuse me, I would have you Countrymen to speak, any of you; if not, let all the poor People in *Wellingborough*, and the Towns thereabouts, and the Poor in *Northampton*, which I have for these fifteen or sixteen Years employed in carding, spinning, dying, and weaving of Wool, speak what my Behaviour hath been toward them or others: For I have, until they cast me into Prison, employed more poor People at Work about Wool, than any one Man in this Country doth; yet notwithstanding what I have done, and do, may not I have the Benefit of the Law, as all Malefactors here have.

Judge. *Goaler, take him away.*

Then the Judge spake to *Thomas Cockett*.

Judge. *Is your Name Cockett.*

T. C. Yes: If any have ought to accuse me of, I am ready to answer the Law.

He was not suffered to proceed, but the Judge called to the Goaler to take them away. Howbeit *Marmaduke Storr* spake thus to the People.

M. S. Take Notice, all People, how we are deprived of the Privilege and Liberty that the Law of this Nation allows, in that we may not be heard speak, and have a legal Trial, which is granted to Felons and Murderers.

As they were withdrawing, *William Dewsberry* turned to the Court, and spake thus to the Judge.

W. D. With what Measure thou metest to us, it will be measured to thee again, and the Lord God of Heaven and Earth will judge between thee and us, and will give unto thee, and every one of you, according to the Works you have done, and in that Day you shall know what is now declared is the Truth; the Lord hath spoken it, in whom we trust, and he will us deliver.

So the Court rose, and the Goaler had them all back to Prison; where they continued about six Months longer, till the Month called *January* 1655, when they and some others were discharged by an Order from *Oliver Cromwell*, the Protector; having suffered a grievous Imprisonment without any just or legal Process against them, viz.

William Dewsberry and *Joseph Storr*, fifteen Months; *Henry Williamson*, *John Whitehead*, *Marmaduke Storr*, and *Thomas Cockett*, about ten Months; *Francis Ellington* thirty eight Weeks; *John Hutchin* and *Michael Patten*, twenty eight Weeks, and *Edward Ferman* thirteen Weeks.

Commitment
of T. Good-
acre and
Others.

During their Imprisonment, their Friends were not admitted to visit them, but several who attempted it, were taken up and sent out of the Town with a Pass. *Thomas Goodacre*, desiring to see them, was repuls'd by the Goaler, and going from the Prison met the Mayor and some of the Aldermen in the Street, to whom he spake thus; *Men! see what is the Fruit of the Ministry of this Nation, and what it has brought forth, for Wickedness and Persecution abound; and those that say they are Christian Magistrates, and persecute the Innocent, are Heathens, and know not God. Adding, that they could not bring any Scripture to prove that ever any Christian Magistrate did persecute any Man as they had done, who cast his Friends into Prison.* This deserved Reproof so incensed the Magistrates against the Reprover, that they committed him to Prison, where he lay about eleven Weeks. The Mayor of *Northampton*, in this Year, was *Peter Whaley*, a Man of an hasty and Cholerick Disposition: When one *Walter Ferr* came before him with his Hat on, he threw it into the Kennel. At another Time *Michael Gainer* having sent him a Book, he threw it into the Fire. In his Mayoralty *Mary Horne* was committed to *Bridewell*, and *Elizabeth Hunt* to *Northampton Goal*, for certain Expressions of Reproof, which gave much Offence to the Priest of *Wellingborough*.

Imprisonment
of T. Stubbs.

Thomas Stubbs, exhorting the People of *Daventry* to Repentance, was sent to Prison by a Justice, who, when *Thomas* asked him, *By what Law he proceeded,* told

told him, *By that Law that says, All Quakers must go to Prison*; though indeed there was no such Law. However he was confined thirteen Weeks, and then released at the Sessions; but ordered to be sent out of the County: Shortly after he returned, and being at *Isham Meeting*, was taken thence, and by two Justices committed to *Bridewell* as a Vagrant, where he was cruelly whipt, and endured much Hardship, not being suffered to have Necessaries for his Money.

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ANNO 1656. On the 26th of the Month called *May*, at a Meeting in a Field belonging to *William Lovel* of *Hardingstone*, *Thomas Stubbs* was preaching, when Captain *Pinkerd* came with some Horsemen of the County Troop, saying, *That he had Orders from Major Butler to disperse that Meeting*: He asked *William Lovel*, whether he owned that Meeting? Who answering *Yes*, the Soldiers were ordered to take him Prisoner, which they did, and with him *John Crook*, *John Samms*, and *Thomas Stubbs*. They were detained in the Field under a Guard some Hours, while the Captain went to the Priest's House to carouse, and consult what to do with his Prisoners. At length the Soldiers were ordered to carry them to *Northampton Goal*. The Goaler opening the Door to receive them, they asked him, *Whether he had any Mittimus?* He answered, *If you will come in I will receive you*. They replied, *We shall not commit our selves*. Then the Captain ordered his Soldiers to put them in by Force, which was done. The Goaler telling them, *By Captain Pinkerd's Order I have received you, and shall detain you*. So he put them into the lower Goal among Thieves and Murderers, and denied even their Wives and Children the Liberty of visiting them. *William Lovel* soon procured an *Habeas Corpus* to remove him to *London*, where he put in Bail to appear at next Term, and returned Home again; but a few Days after was, by *Major Butler's* Order, taken from his own House, and without any Cause assigned, committed to the Marshal's Custody, where he remained about sixteen Days. He afterwards appeared at the Term, and was discharged: But the others yet continued Prisoners.

Several taken
by Soldiers.

In this Year also, *Thomas Goodaire* was taken preaching in a Meeting at *Ould*, and by two Justices sent to *Northampton Goal*, where he lay among Felons, in a Place twelve Steps under Ground, sixteen Weeks. *Henry Hall* and others, going to a Meeting at the House of *John Hart* of *Towcester*, were stopt in the Street, and fined 10 s. each, for travelling on the Sabbath. Several of them had their Horses taken away, and one was set in the Stocks four Hours. *Anne Richardson* was imprisoned eight Weeks at the Instigation of the Priest of *Wellingborough*, to whom a just Reproof from her had given great Offence.

Diverse other
Imprisonments.

ANNO 1657. In this Year *Edward Roberts*, of *Overston*, a Man of exemplary Patience and Innocence, and of a Conversation truly edifying, died a Prisoner, for his Testimony against Tithes, in *Northampton Goal*, at the Suit of *Lionel Godrick*, his Parish Priest; after one and twenty Months Imprisonment. His Prosecutor had before taken from him four Horses worth 28 l. for a Demand of 3 l. 3 s. for Tithes.

Death of
E. Roberts
in Prison
for Tithes.

On the 13th of *September*, *William Ireland* went into the Steeple-house at *Findon*, and when the Priest had done, and was going out, spake thus to the People; *Fear God: He is worthy to be feared of all that know him; and mind the Light of Christ in you, which shews you the Evil of your Ways*. For this Christian Exhortation he was sent to *Bridewell* for six Months, where he was unmercifully whipt, and so cruelly used, that he became exceeding weak, so that he hardly survived the Time of his Imprisonment, but presently after died.

Whipping of
W. Ireland.

In like Manner *Anne Corbey*, for exhorting the People at *Burton-Latimer* to fear God, and to mind the *Light of Christ Jesus within them, which was a sure Teacher, and witnessed against the Evil of their Doings*, was imprisoned eleven Weeks in *Northampton Goal*, and together with her, *Anne Peel*, though no Breach of any Law was proved against either of them: For supposed Offences of the like Nature, *Rebecca Peake* and *Mary Bottom* also suffered Imprisonment.

Imprison-
ments.

In this Year also, the Grand Jury at the Quarter Sessions found two Bills of Indictment against *William Lovel*, one for *Blasphemy*, in saying, *The Scriptures*

W. Lovel
indicted.

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were not the Word of God; the other for Slander, in calling the Ministers, Ministers of the Devil: Both grounded on a Misconstruction of some Expressions of his: Upon this he was imprisoned about five Months, and was afterwards fined by the Justices 30 l. Next Day after the Sessions, William's Wife discoursing with Francis Harvey, Chairman of the Sessions, he told her, That had it not been for him, her Husband had been fined three Times as much; and that it was her Husband's Life they thirsted after, meaning Major Butler and John Brown, Justices, who were violent Persecutors of the Quakers; as was also John Mansell, another Justice in that County. William Lovel, for not paying his Fine, remained in Prison about a Year and an Half, and then was discharged by an Order from Richard Cromwell and his Council.

On a like groundless Charge of Blasphemy, Francis Ellington, of Wellingborough, was indicted by the Procurement of one Lane, a Priest, and others, who consulted together against him. Lane swore, and his Evidence was accepted, in Contradiction to several Ear-Witnesses who were present when the Words charged against him were spoken. However, the Jury found him Guilty, and he was sentenced to the House of Correction for six Months, where he was cruelly whipt, and underwent other barbarous Usage.

Fines.

About this Time William Vincent, Thomas Ollive, and Rebecca Peake, were fined under the Name of Sabbath-breakers, for no other Cause than travelling to their religious Meetings on the First-day of the Week.

Tithes.

William Richardson and William Page, both of Wellingborough, were imprisoned for frivolous Demands, pretended to be due for Tithe of Calves and Eggs, and for Smoke-Money, and for Easter-Offerings; beside which, the said William Page had his Goods taken away on such Pretences, to the Value of 4 l.

Distresses.

In this Year also, for Demands of 10 s. 3 d. for Tithes, Goods were taken from several Persons, to the Value of 1 l. 13 s. 8 d.

For Tithes.

ANNO 1658. Thomas Smallbone, of Endon, for 3 l. 5 s. claimed by the Priest of that Place for Tithes, was imprisoned five Weeks, and had also his Goods taken by Execution, to the Value of 9 l.

Hard Suffer-
ings for 4d.
claimed for
Tithes.

William Vincent, for a Demand of only 4 d. for Tithes, was imprisoned in Northampton Low-Goal, at the Suit of Thomas Andrews, Priest of Wellingborough, above a Year among Felons, by whom he was much abused, being a very weakly Man, and having above a dozen Sores about him, by which he was rendered almost unable to help himself, and obliged to go on Crutches. His miserable Case was represented to the Priest, his Prosecutor, who yet shewed no Lenity towards him, but seemed to value the poor Man's Life at less than one Groat.

Several others in this Year, for Claims of Tithes, amounting to 3 l. 8 s. 4 d. had Goods taken from them worth 9 l. 10 s.

Sufferings for
not Swearing.

Grievous were the Proceedings against Nicholas Day, Peter Mackernefs, and George Whitlock, all of Findon, who for refusing to take an Oath at a Court-Leet there, were fined 20 s. each; for Non-payment of which, they underwent the Seizure and Loss of their Goods, to the Value of 56 l. 2 s. 6 d.

In this Year also, Richard Ellard, having served an Apprenticeship in Northampton, was refused his Freedom of the Town, for refusing to take the Oath of Admission, usual on that Occasion.

Grievous
Suffering of
M. Parker.

ANNO 1659. Margaret Parker, of Aino on the Hill, a poor Widow, having three Children, was imprisoned at Northampton seven and twenty Months for Tithes of Corn and Hay, less than 13 s. 4 d. in Value. This poor Woman's Sufferings were grievous, being close confined among Murderers, Thieves, Whores, and some called Witches, in a close nasty Place, where her Friends were not admitted to see her, otherwise than through the Key-hole of the Door.

We also find imprisoned at Northampton, for very small Demands of Tithes, the following Persons, namely,

Prisoners.

Robert Curtis, a poor Shepherd, of Colebigbam: Peter Mackernefs, imprisoned above a Year: John Garret, forty Weeks: And John Bett, of Aino on the Hill, seven Weeks.

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Hunt and *Mary Botham* were again imprisoned; the Latter for speaking to the People in *Wellingborough* Steeple-house, before their Preacher came, these Words, *Turn your Minds within to the true Teacher of Israel, who will never deceive you, for all other Teachers will deceive you.* The Former, applying to the Priest in the other's Behalf, was also sent to Goal with her by the same *Mittimus*, as a Disturber of the Priest and People at their Worship, though she was not there. At the Sessions, on the 13th of the Month called *April*, they were fined 5*l.* each, and continued in Prison, till released by Order of a Committee of Parliament. Some Time before this, *John Green* and *John Rogers* had suffered Imprisonment for their speaking in Opposition to some of the publick Preachers of those Times.

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ANNO 1660. On the 23d of *December*, at a Meeting in the House of *William Atton*, of *Middleton*, where *George Robinson* was concerned to preach; a Justice of the Peace being informed of it, sent for *William Atton*; *Robinson*, to prevent his Friend's suffering for what himself had done, went with him: The Justice ordered *Robinson* to be set in the Stocks, and afterward committed him to Prison till the next Sessions, when the Justices tendred the Oath to them both, and also to *Daniel Wills*, who came thither to observe the Proceedings, and upon Refusal committed them all three to *Northampton Goal*, where they lay about three Quarters of a Year.

3 Committed
to Prison.

On the 27th of the same Month, *Christopher Moore*, of *Richmond* in *Yorkshire*, passing toward *London*, tarried at a Meeting at *Dingly*, where he was taken by a Warrant, and carried before two Justices, who upon his refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, sent him to *Northampton Goal*; whither on the 13th of the next Month were also committed for the same Cause, *Richard Wright* of *Holcott*, *William Darnell* of *Hannington*, *James Pratt* of *Barton*, *Thomas Wright* of *Ould*, and *Samuel Suncock* of *Billing*, who were taken together when met at *Richard Wright's* House; also *John Mason*, taken by a Constable in a Friend's House at *Polebrook*.

Many other
Imprison-
ments.

On the 20th of the Month called *January*, *John Parnel*, *Michael Gaines*, *Thomas Hewlett*, *Thomas Hirons*, *Richard Verney*, *William Mather* of *Holmby*, *Oliver Mellows* of *Halston*, *Thomas Gayling* of *Duston*, *Daniel Row* and *Henry Row*, of *Dallington*, were taken from a Meeting at the House of *Daniel Wills* in *Northampton*, and sent to Prison. In the same Month *John Hart*, of *Towcester*, *John Butcher*, and *Thomas Hirons*, of *Astrop*, *John Bett* and *John Borton*, of *Aino*, *Thomas Miller*, *Richard Miller*, *Richard Hewes*, and *William Chandler*, of *Brackley*, were taken out of their own Houses by Soldiers, and committed to Prison for refusing the Oaths. And about the same Time, *Thomas Butcher*, of *Astrop*, was taken out of his Fields, and sent to Prison; as was *Samuel Harper*, of *Market-Harborough* in *Leicestershire*, who was seized by a Soldier as he was going to a Meeting.

In the same Month were taken at a Meeting in *Farndon*, *Francis Child*, *Thomas Mackernefs*, and *Thomas Holloway*, all three of *Market-Harborough* aforesaid, *John Goddard*, of *Marson-Trussel*, *William Rimington*, of *Great-Bowden*, *James Phiggin* and *John Warren*, both of *Oxon* in this County, and committed to Prison: Also from a Meeting at *Attleborough* were taken *William Ward*, of that Place, and *John Gerriott*, of *Findon*, which two only were committed out of twenty seven who were at that Meeting, the Justice being told that the Goal was so full it could not hold them. Nevertheless, on the 24th of the Month called *February* twelve others were thrust in, who had been taken by a Party of Horse from a Meeting at the House of *William Evans* in *Farthingstone*, namely, *William Evans*, *Francis Evans*, and *George Ayers*, of that Place; *Richard Ashby*, *Thomas Ingram*, and *John Green*, of *Bugbrook*; *John Ayres*, of *Everton*; *Robert Burnall* and *William Robinson*, of *Eastcutt*, *Robert Curtis*, of *Colebigbam*; *Thomas Poole*, of *Flower*; and *William Ashby*, of *Dalscutt*.

The Goal
filled.

Singular was the Case of *John Lane*, who being come upwards of forty Miles to visit a Relation in *Yardly-Chase*, was falsely accused of being at a Baptists Meeting, and thereupon sent for by a Justice of the Peace, who committed him

Case of
J. Lane.

NORTH-
AMPTON-
SHIRE.
1660.

Dismal Con-
finement.

Discharge of
Prisoners.

Imprisonment
for Tithes.

38 Sent from
Meeting to
Prison.

More Impri-
sonments.

Sufferings for
Tithes.

Imprisonments.

to Prison for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance. The Number of Prisoners now in *Northampton* Goal was near forty, put into the Low-Goal twelve Steps under Ground, where they were lockt up every Night among Felons, and in Winter the Goaler kept the Door fast sixteen Hours together, and they lay so close one by another, that he who was up last could hardly set his Foot between them to go to the Place where he should lie. Some of them were sick for Want of Air, and when their Friends came many Miles to visit them, they were not admitted: Their Food and Necessaries were often kept from them, so that their Sufferings were exceeding great.

About the same Time, *Richard Painter*, *Benoni Bradshaw*, and *Laurence Gilgrafs*, were taken out of their own Houses in *Northampton*, and committed to the Marshal's Custody for refusing the Oaths. For the same Cause, *Thomas Smith*, *John Chapman*, and *Francis Creak*, were imprisoned among Felons at *Peterborough*.

The Generality of the Prisoners before mentioned lay about three or four Months, and then were discharged by the King's Proclamation.

ANNO 1661. *Joseph Gammage*, of *Bugbrook*, was imprisoned in this County for refusing to pay Tithes.

ANNO 1662. In this Year *Thomas Arnold*, of *Heyford*, and *Thomas Willer*, of *Brackley*, were committed to Prison for their Testimony against paying Tithes.

On the 13th of the Month called *July*, thirty eight Persons were taken at a Meeting in *Northampton*, of whom twenty five, being Inhabitants there, were sent to the Town Prison, viz. *Daniel Wills*, *John Parnell*, *Thomas Hewlett*, *Edward Wallis*, *John Oddell*, *John Lewes*, *Jane Ashby*, *Walter Farr*, *Michael Gaines* and *Mary* his Wife, *Richard Painter* and *Rebecca* his Wife, *Benoni Bradshaw* and *Elizabeth* his Wife, *Laurence Gilgrafs* and *Frances* his Wife, *Thomas Hiron* and *Alice* his Wife, *Mary Cooper*, *Anne Hewlett*, *Anne Cook*, *Anne Tiplady*, *Katharine Bass*, *Sarah Kemp*, and *Elizabeth Hewlett*. The other fifteen were committed to the County Goal, namely, *William Lovel*, *Richard Green*, *William Green*, *Mary Green*, *Philip Haddon* and *Elizabeth* his Wife, all of *Hardingstone*; *Robert Burling*, of *Cotton-End*; *Thomas Gayling*, of *Duston*; *Henry Row* and *Mary Dent*, of *Dallington*; *John Foster*, *Jane Canby*, and *Bridget Dilly*, of *King's-Thorp*: And on the 28th, *John Hart*, of *Towcester*.

On the 6th of November, *William Mather* and *John Smith*, both of *Wellingborough*, were taken out of a Meeting at the said *Mather's* House, and sent to *Northampton* Goal, where they lay about three Months. To the same Prison were committed about three Months after, *William Atton* of *Middleton*, *Simon Mutton* of *Geddington*, *Nathanael Beeby* of *Rowel*, *Thomas Boon* of *Corby*, *George Almund* of *Medburn*, *Giles Hinsley* of *Geddington*, *Thomas Cooke* of *Weldon*, and *John Molsie* of *Ochley*, who were taken at a Meeting in the said *William Atton's* House.

On the 14th of December were taken out of a Meeting at the House of *Mary Cooper* in *Northampton*, *Edward Wallis* and *Thomas Hiron*, both of that Town, *Thomas Gayling* of *Duston*, *John Forster* of *King's Thorp*, *Richard Green* and *Matthew Haddon*, of *Hardingstone*; they were committed to Prison in a nasty stinking Place, scarce good enough for Swine, where five of them remained in a very cold wet Season, till the Sessions on the 16th of the next Month.

ANNO 1663. In this Year *Robert Ashby*, *Arthur Green* the Elder, and *Arthur Green* the Younger, all of *Bugbrook*, suffered Imprisonment for their conscientious Refusal to pay Tithes. And in this Year also, *Peter Mackerness* and *Nicholas Day* suffered Distress of Goods for refusing to pay Steeple-house Rates, or Easter-Offerings.

On the 23d of the Month called *August*, was a large Meeting of two or three Hundred at the House of *Henry Hopkin* in *Muskutt*, whither came a Corporal and five Soldiers with a Justices's Warrant, and entered the Meeting with their Pistols cockt, yet stood still and heard *John Samm* then preaching. The Meeting being ended, they took away eight Persons, namely, *John Samm* of *Haughton-Conquest*,

Haughton-Conquest in *Bedfordshire*, *William Lovel* of *Hardingston*, *Daniel Wills*, *Benoni Bradshaw*, and *Laurence Gilgrafs*, of *Northampton*, *George Ayres* of *Farthingstone*, *Joseph Gammage* of *Bugbrook*, and *Thomas Dent* of *Kislingberry*. The Soldiers took them to an Inn in *Northampton*, whence they were committed to the Common-Goal, and next Day, being the Time of the Affizes there, were brought before the Judge, who tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and remanded them to Prison for refusing it.

NORTH-AMPTON-SHIRE.
1663.

On the 6th of September, *William Hopkins*, *William Simpson*, and *Richard Ashby*, taken at a Meeting in *Bugbrook*, were for the same Cause committed to Prison; as were also on the 30th of December, *George Warner*, *John Nottingham*, *Thomas Cattle*, and *Thomas Allgood*, who were taken at a Meeting in *Geddington*.

Toward the End of this Year, twenty two Friends, having been long confined together with ten Felons and Debtors in a close Room, most of which was taken up with the Straw on which they lodged, so that they had little Space to walk in, a violent Fever seized first some of the Felons, to whom as fellow Creatures, and fellow Prisoners, though in a Cause vastly different, the Friends thought it their Duty to be assistant in their extream Weakness, and accordingly did what they could for them, till at length the Air being exceedingly corrupted with the Breath of the Distempered, a Kind of Contagion spread among the Prisoners, and the Friends so generally fell sick, that when called over at the Affizes, only four of them were able to appear before the Judge, who being informed of their sad Condition, gave a private Order to the Goaler to let them go forth for Air, by which Means some recovered, but seven of them, being too weak to go out or be removed, died there; of whom an Account follows in the Beginning of the next Year, viz.

A Fever in the Prison, of which seven died.

ANNO 1664. 1. *William Carr*, who was at first committed on a malicious Accusation of spreading a treasonable Paper; and when at the Sessions there appeared no Ground for such a Charge, they tendred him the Oath of Allegiance. He lay in Prison about eleven Weeks, and died on the 25th of the Month called *March* 1664.

Death of W. Carr.

2. *Richard Ashby*, who died on the 26th of the same Month.

R. Ashby.

3. *John Samm*, a faithful Minister of the Gospel, an incessant Labourer in the Work of the Ministry, and of an exemplary Life and Conversation. He died on the same Day with *Ashby*.

J. Samm.

4. *Thomas Arnold*, who departed this Life on the 1st Day of the Month called *April*.

T. Arnold.

5. *William Ewins*, who also died on the same Day.

W. Ewins.

6. *Joseph Gammage*, who both died on the 11th Day of the said Month

J. Gammage.

7. *William Lovel*, called *April*.

W. Lovel.

These all finished their Course in Peace, and departed in full Assurance of Faith, having their Hope and Confidence firm in the Lord, by whose Power they had witnessed Redemption from a vain Conversation, and who had armed them with the Patience of the Saints to undergo Tribulations and Afflictions for the Testimony he had called them to bear, who supported them with the Consolations of his Spirit, and enabled them in the Midst of their Afflictions to sing Praises unto him, and to bless his Name, to the Edification and Comfort one of another, and to the Astonishment of others who beheld their Piety and Patience.

ANNO 1665. At a Sessions held at *Northampton Castle* on the 4th and 6th Days of the Month called *April*, five of the People called *Quakers* received Sentence of Banishment to *Jamaica*, on Conviction for the third Offence in meeting together for religious Worship, namely, *William Robinson*, *Richard Parsons*, *John Coory*, *Elizabeth Harris*, and *Daniel Roe*: And at another Sessions on the 12th and 13th of the Month called *February*, this Year, four others, viz. *Thomas Allen*, *Francis Child*, *Richard Coe*, and *William Line*, were also sentenced to be transported to the same Place. In this Year also *John Bett*, *John Borton*, *Edward Hardly*, and *John Holcroft*, poor Labourers, had their

5 Sentenced to Banishment.

4 Others banished.

Other Sufferings.

NORTH-
AMPTON-
SHIRE.

1665.

Banishment of
J. Treslove.

About forty
taken at a
Meeting and
sent to Prison.

2 Others trans-
ported.

Many others
imprisoned.

More Impri-
soned.

Goods taken by Distress for a Fine of 4s. each, imposed for four Weeks Absence from their Parish-Church. Likewise *John Garratt*, of *Findon*, for refusing to take an Oath, when summoned to serve on a Jury, suffered nine Months Imprisonment.

ANNO 1666. On the 25th of the Month called *April*, at *Northampton* Sessions, *John Treslove*, of *Farndon*, was indicted on the Act of Banishment for the third Offence. The Foreman of the Jury, impanelled to try him, was *William Smith*, of *Farthingstone*, who in *Oliver Cromwell's* Days was a fierce Stickler against the Common-Prayer, and then employed to hunt and persecute the Innocent: He was now upon the Turn of Times as zealous for what he had before opposed, and by his Violence over-awed some others of the Jury to bring the Prisoner in Guilty, who accordingly was sentenced to be transported to *Jamaica* for seven Years.

On the 20th of the Month called *May*, was a Meeting at the House of *John Mackerness* in *Findon*, to which a Constable came with a Rabble of Assistants, and told the Friends, that they must none of them go thence till they had been before the Justices, he having a Warrant to secure them, and as soon as the Meeting was ended, he, with his Assistants, dragged about forty of them to a neighbouring Alehouse, namely, *Thomas Ollive*, *William Page*, *Robert Cox*, *John Nottingham*, *Thomas Page*, *William Mather*, *Elizabeth Ellington*, *Judith Ollive*, *Alice Ives*, and *Alice Harris*, all of *Wellingborough*; *John Garratt*, *Joseph Garratt*, *Nicholas Day*, *William Miller*, * *Frances Miller*, and *Hannah Day*, all of *Findon*; *Richard Pell*, *John Pell*, *Anne Pell*, and *Elizabeth Rose*, all of *Little-Harradon*; *Elizabeth Bugg*, of the Isle of *Ely*; *William Pooley*, *Thomas Abbott*, and *Christopher Davis*, all of *Addington*; *John Woolston*, *Laurence Key*, and *Mary Tarry*, all of *Attleborough*; *Thomas Austin*, of *Stanwick*; and *Anne Nichols*, of *Rance*; *Daniel Brown*, *John Bayes*, *William Wooton*, and *Joane Brown*, all of *Puddington* in *Bedfordshire*; *James Pratt*, of *Barton*; *George Warner*, *James Warner*, *Thomas Hansgood*, and *Thomas Cattle*, all of *Kettering*. They were detained all Night at the Alehouse, and next Morning put into a Cart and a Waggon, and so conveyed to Justice *Yelverton's* at *Ealson*, who with another Justice present, fined them 40s. each, and for Non-payment sent them all to the County Goal for six Weeks.

At the next Quarter Sessions, on the 12th of the Month called *June*, two of them, viz. *Nicholas Day* and *Joseph Garratt* were indicted for the third Offence. The Foreman of the Jury was the afore-named *William Smith*, of *Farthingstone*, against whom the Prisoners excepted as being prejudiced against them, but the Court over-ruled their just Exception. So they were soon brought in Guilty, and received Sentence of Transportation to *Jamaica* for seven Years.

On the 17th of the same Month, *Thomas Page*, *Thomas Pell*, *Samuel Britton*, *John Biggs*, *Anne Mary Page*, *Mary Ives*, *Elizabeth Hackney*, *Anne Cox*, *Isabel Gibbs*, *Mary Bailey*, *Mary Wareing*, *Elizabeth Bull*, *Sarah Bailey*, *Anne Vice*, and *Mary Houghton*, were taken from a Meeting in *Findon*, kept all Night in an Alehouse, and next Day carried in a Waggon to Justice *Yelverton's*, who with another Justice present, severally fined them, and for refusing to pay sent them to *Northampton* Goal for six Weeks, though the Condition of several of them might have moved Compassion; one Woman being great with Child, another having a sucking Child, and several poor Widows, having diverse small Children to provide for.

On the 15th of the Month called *July*, *Richard Pell*, *William Pell*, *Anne Pell*, *Elizabeth Rose*, *John Ellington*, *Alice Ives*, *Amy Robinson*, and *Mary Tarry*; some of whom had been before committed in the Month called *May*, suffered six Weeks Imprisonment, and returning again to the Meeting at *Findon*, were taken thence, detained one Night in an Alehouse, and next Day committed to Prison.

From

* *Frances Miller* had with her a young Child sucking at her Breast.

From other Meetings, held not long after at the same Place, were also taken and sent to Prison, *John Haughton, Thomas Preffon, Edmund Mackernefs, Rebecca Mackernefs, Ellen Garrett, Sarah Bailey, Henry Roe, John Parnel, Michael Gaines, Samuel Gaines, John Gaines, Thomas Hewlett, George Ireland, and Alexander Manning.*

NORTH-AMPTON-SHIRE.
1666.

On the 19th of the Month called *July*, *Daniel Wills, Henry Roe, William Griffin, Michael Gaines, John Gaines, and John Parnel*, were brought to the Sessions at *Northampton*, to be tried on the Act for Banishment for the third Offence: One of them, *Henry Roe*, was sentenced to be transported to *Jamaica* for seven Years; but upon some Doubt arising, the Trial of the others was postpon'd, and in Process of Time they were released. The Trial also of *John Lewis*, on the Act for Banishment, intended to have been that Sessions, was prevented by his Death in the Prison a short Time before.

Death of
J. Lewis.

In the Month called *August*, *John Pell, John Crick, Robert Wallis, and Richard Wright*, were committed to Prison for being at a Meeting in *Wellingborough*: And in the Month of *September*, *John Houghton, William Page, John Garrett, John Nottingham, Thomas Page, and John Ellington*, taken at a Meeting in *Findon*, were also committed to Prison. These last six with others, to the Number of fifteen Men and ten Women, were kept lockt up all Night in an Alehouse, and next Day the Men were put into a Cart, and the Women into a Waggon, and carried before Justice *Yelverton*, who signed a *Mittimus* for committing ten of the Men to Prison; but another Justice's Hand being necessary, he directed his Clerk to carry it to one Justice *Ward*, not far from *Northampton*: The ten Men were again put into the Cart, and conveyed with the *Mittimus* to the said Justice *Ward*, but he refused to sign it; upon which the Prisoners were conveyed to *Northampton*, and when there, the two Clerks, viz. *Ward's* and *Yelverton's*, busied themselves to find out some other Justice to sign the *Mittimus*, but could procure none, nor could the Goaler legally receive them without. So the Prisoners, after long waiting, returned every Man to his own Home: But some Time after, the last mentioned six were taken by another Warrant and sent to Goal; three of whom, viz. *John Houghton, John Nottingham, and Thomas Page*, were afterward sentenced to Transportation. The Number of Persons of this Persuasion, at one Time under close Confinement in the County Goal, was more than fourscore, of whom many were Farmers and Husbandmen, lockt up from their Business both in Hay-time and Harvest, to their very great Loss and Damage.

Above eighty
Prisoners at
one Time.

ANNO 1667. *Robert Ashby* and *Arthur Green*, before mentioned to have been committed to Prison in 1663, were yet remaining there at the Suit of one *Whitfield*, Priest of *Bugbrook*, who during their Confinement made great Spoil on their Effects at Home, taking away some Times whole Fields of Corn, and some Times whole Loads of Grain and Hay, far exceeding any legal Claim: At the same Time pressing the Goaler to keep them close confined, which he did, alledging in Excuse of himself, that he had asked the Priest, *Whether he might not let them go out some Times to fetch in their Provisions and Necessaries*; but was answered by him, *No; keep them in, and pine them, and starve them.* So that their Imprisonment was very long and grievous. There were also yet remaining, closely confined, those fifteen Persons whom in the two preceding Years we have mentioned to have undergone the hard Sentence of Transportation; under which five of them had now lain two and thirty Months, three others of them twenty eight Months, and none of them less than fourteen Months. In this Year also we find imprisoned at *Northampton*, under Sentence of *Premunire*, *Thomas Dent* and *George Ayre*, who had then continued in that State about four Years and three Months. About this Time the Prisoners there thought meet to publish a Paper declaring their innocent Plainness and Integrity, being as follows,

Rough Answer
of a Priest.

Premunire.

Some

NORTH-
AMPTON-
SHIRE.
1667.

" Some Fruits reaped already by the Faithful that have entred into the
" GOOD LAND, of which Canaan was a Figure, which we here in the
" Fear of the LORD declare without boasting, that others may see what
" grows in that Land, that are not yet come thither.

A Paper pub-
lished by some
of the Pri-
soners.

" SINCE the Lord called us, whom the World calls *Quakers*, into that
" Land, where the Light of Christ shineth, we have come to witness the
" Lord's Power fulfilled, that all the Children of the Lord should be taught
" of the Lord, and that the Lord would teach his People himself, and we
" need not that any Hireling Priest teach us; so we bid Adieu to all Hireling
" Priests and Teachers, and shall not, nor never may, put into their Mouths
" again.

" Secondly. Since we came into this good Land, we never have been
" without wise Men among us, that if any Difference hath arisen between a
" Brother and a Brother, we have been made willing to put our Cause to their
" Determination: And so never among the Thousands of those called *Quakers*,
" Brother has never been found to go to Law with a Brother, and that before
" Infidels, such as judge for Gifts and Rewards. So adieu Hireling Priests,
" and deceitful Lawyers: Christ's Government which we live under, will never
" admit of any of you.

" Thirdly. And since the Lord hath brought us into this good Land, there
" is not a Beggar found among us, but all are made willing to labour with their
" own Hands, that so they may be serviceable to all in their Generation.

" Fourthly. The Civil Magistrates, neither at their Assizes, nor at their
" Sessions, have not at any Time any one of us brought before them for the
" Breach of any just Law of God or Man: Yet we are many of us brought
" before them, as *Daniel* was, and as Christ Jesus said we should, for Things
" concerning our God, and for Righteousness-sake: And for those Things we
" are not ashamed.

" And when Magistrates Eyes come to be opened, and they once come to
" hate the Whore, and to eat her Flesh, and to burn her with Fire, then they
" will see, that the *Quakers* Principles are not destructive to good Government
" nor Governours: But as People come to own their Principles, and to live in
" them, they will ease the Magistrate of a great deal of Labour, and free the
" Nation of a vast Charge, that is now spent needlessly upon Priests and Lawyers,
" and yet for all that no Reformation wrought among the People."

Remarks on the
said Paper.

The foregoing Paper expresses the early Sense of this People respecting mer-
cenary Priests and Lawyers, as having no Place among *perfect Christians*; be-
cause the true Ministers of Christ are ever ready freely to communicate unto
others their Experience of the Teachings of his Spirit freely given them: And
as to Lawyers, a Government of universal Peace can find them no Employ-
ment.

Tithes.

In this and the two preceding Years, *Thomas Cooke* had taken from him, in
Cattle and other Things for Tithes, to the Value of 13*l.* 7*s.* And
ANNO 1668. The said *Thomas Cooke* had taken from him for Tithes, two
Acres of his best Corn.

Persecution
revived.

ANNO 1670. In the two last Years we find but few Instances of Persecu-
tion in this County; but upon another Act issued against *Conventicles* in this
Year, the Informers and others again made a Prey on their religious Neigh-
bours, as appears by the following *Extract* of a Letter from *Wellingborough*,
dated the 13th of the Fourth Month 1670.

Extract of a
Letter from
Wellingbo-
rough.

" SOME Days by past, the wicked Ruler's Agents came and streined
" from *Thomas Ollive* sixty Pounds worth of good Cloth at one Time,
" and had Orders to take twenty Pounds from *Francis Ellington*, but forbore in
" Regard of a Deed of Sale for the Security of his Creditors, &c. The
" Friend

NORTH-
AMPTON-
SHIRE.
1670.

“ Friend shewed them what he had reserved, but they would not then take it,
“ but desired him to go with them to the Justice, who is a great Persecutor,
“ and when he saw the Deed, he boasted and said, *It would do the Friend no*
“ *Good* : Who answered, that *If the late Act had not frustrated all the Law of*
“ *England, his Council informed him, that he might sell his Goods to whom he*
“ *pleased.* So the Justice bade the Constable forbear till he had sent to London :
“ Then he asked the Constables, *Whether they had taken enough from Thomas*
“ *Ollive.* They said, *They thought they had.* He replied, *Be sure you take*
“ *enough and more, that so there may be twenty Pounds for the King, twenty*
“ *Pounds for the Poor, and twenty Pounds for the Informer, and if you take*
“ *Goods enough, then of the Residue you shall have one Part, and I will have*
“ *the Rest.* They answered him, that *They would never receive a Penny on that*
“ *Account.* Also one *Yelverton*, Knight and Burgess for Northampton, said the
“ same Words to the Constables. They also took seven Beasts from another
“ Friend dwelling near ; and from another Friend one hundred and sixty
“ Pasture Fleeces, and most of his Brass and Pewter : And from another they
“ were ordered to distrain for seven Pounds fifteen Shillings ; and from another
“ as much, who being a Widow's Son, and having nothing in Possession, the
“ Warrant was returned to the Justices, who sent the Constables back again
“ with a Command to take his Clothes : Another Friend was distrained for
“ twenty five Shillings ; another for forty Pounds ; and another for twenty
“ Pounds ; besides diverse for five Shillings and ten Shillings a piece : Also
“ two or more were distrained for eight Pounds a piece, and another for
“ twelve Pounds.

“ The Bishop of *Peterborough* visited at *Rowel* last Week, and there said
“ openly in the Mass-house, after he had given every Officer a Charge to put
“ the late Act in Execution ; *That when they met again, (meaning the Parlia-*
“ *ment) they would make a stronger for them, they would get a Law made to*
“ *take away their Lands and Goods, and then they should be sold for Bond-slaves.*”

This shews that some of the leading Ecclesiasticks thought the Laws, though very severe, too favourable toward the Quakers ; wherefore they not only urged the Execution of them to the utmost Extremity ; but would willingly have extended them to the utter Extirpation of those whom in their mistaken Zeal they deemed to be Hereticks.

In this Year, at Northampton they met in the Street, being excluded from their usual Meeting-place ; for one of those Meetings *Edward Cowper* had a Fine of 9*l.* imposed on him for himself and thirty four others so assembled, for which the Officers took away his Goods to the Value of about 16*l.* But when after a long Time they could find no Body to purchase them, they were redeemed by some charitable Neighbours for 3*l.* and returned to the Owner.

Fines for
Meeting.

Thomas Cooke, for absenting himself from the publick Worship, had Goods taken from him worth 15*s.* He was also committed to Prison, and suffered Distress of Goods to the Amount of 7*s.* for the Charges of carrying him thither.

T. Cooke.

ANNO 1672. In this Year *Daniel Roe*, *John Nottingham*, *Thomas Page*, *John Haughton*, *Nicholas Day*, *Joseph Garrett*, *William Robinson*, *John Cary*, *Thomas Allen*, *Richard Coe*, *John Treslove*, *William Line*, *Francis Child*, and *Elizabeth Harris*, were set at Liberty from their long and grievous Confinement in Northampton Goal, where some of them had lain under the dismal Sentence of Transportation between seven and eight Years, and none of them less than six Years. At the same Time was also discharged *Thomas Dent*, who had been confined there under Sentence of *Premunire* upwards of nine Years.

14 Discharged
from long Im-
prisonments.

ANNO 1677. *Robert Ashby*, *John Ashby*, and *Thomas Hascott*, of Bugbrook, were imprisoned at Northampton for Tithes, and lay there a long Time, at the Suit of *Samuel Clark*, *Richard Rainsford*, and *William Bugby*, Impropriators or Tithe-farmers. And not long after, *Peter Mackerness* was sent to the same

Prosecutions
for Tithes.

NORTH-
AMPTON-
SHIRE.
1678.

Prosecutions
for Tithes.

Prison for a Demand of small Tithes on an *Exchequer* Process, at the Suit of the Priest of *Findon*.

ANNO 1678. *William Tibbs* and *John Green*, of *Bugbrook*, were Prisoners in *Northampton* Goal for Tithes, at the Suit of several Impropropriators, and also of *John Whitfield*, Priest of that Parish.

ANNO 1679. The aforesaid *William Tibbs* had taken from him on an Execution for Tithes, by the Sheriff, 40*l.* for an original Demand of but 6*l.* and the said *John Green*, for a Claim of 20*s.* for Tithes, had an Execution served on his Effects for 20*l.* *John Ayres*, of *Farthingstone*, for a Demand of 20*s.* for small Tithes, had an Execution awarded against him for 12*l.* at the Suit of one *Hogg*, Priest of that Parish. The same *John Ayres* and *Henry Hopkins* were also imprisoned for refusing to pay Tithes. Likewise *William Miller*, of *Findon*, was committed to Prison on a Process against him for small Tithes in the Ecclesiastical Court.

William Pooley, of *Addington-Puce*, was prosecuted in the *Exchequer*, at the Suit of *Nathanael Hewson* Priest, for Tithes of about 6*l.* Value, for which were taken from him by a Sequestration, Horses, Kine, and Hogs, worth 40*l.* but some of his Relations afterward redeemed them by the Payment of 20*l.*

ANNO 1680. *Richard Bradshaw*, of *Flower* in *Northamptonshire*, writ a Paper, expressing the Christian Zeal of its Writer against the Payment of Tithes, and containing a just Reproof of those, who being convinced in their own Judgment that *Tithes are Antichristian*, do nevertheless submit to pay them for Fear of suffering, we have thought meet, for the Sake of such, to insert the same, thinking it may be as necessary now as it was then; it is as follows,

“ A Testimony to the TRUTH, and against that which makes
“ a Profession of TRUTH, and yet can pay Tithes.

“ Friends,

A Paper of
R. Bradshaw.

“ YOU that are convinced of God’s eternal Truth, but chiefly you that
“ have a long Time been convinced of it, and do bear a Testimony in
“ the Assembly of God’s People, and also against the false Ways and Wor-
“ ships of this World, against the Hireling and his Wages, in Words; yet
“ notwithstanding these Testimonies, can throw into the Mouth of the *Whore’s*
“ Merchants: The Lord hath often shewed me, you are within the Borders of
“ *Babylon*; and thus saith the Lord, *Come out of Babylon my People, and touch*
“ *no unclean Thing*, for if you partake of her Sins, you must partake of her
“ *Plagues*, if you repent not in Time, for the Spirit of the Lord will not
“ always strive with Man. But this I have farther to signify unto you, and
“ that from the Lord, *There is a Way out of Babylon, and out of all her*
“ *Borders, and to be separated from all her Brats*: I do believe I need not say
“ much concerning the Way, for I believe many of you do know the Way,
“ and they that do not, let them learn of him who is the Way, the Truth,
“ and the Life. *The just Man’s Path is a shining Light, where the way-faring*
“ *Man, though a Fool, cannot err therein*. And it is the Desire of my Soul,
“ and the Breathing of my Life unto God, that I with you, and you with
“ me, and all that make a Profession of the Name of the Lord, may walk
“ therein, that we may give no Offence to them that are without, neither to
“ the Church of God.

“ Friends, that which moves in you, and causes you to pay Tithes, is not
“ of the Lord’s planting; therefore *Every Plant which God hath not planted,*
“ *ought to be plucked up*.

“ Friends, you that pay Tithes, and we that for Conscience-sake cannot pay
“ Tithes, yet make a Profession of the True God, and all to have the same
“ Teacher: Be cool in your Minds, *Friends*; and let the true Heart-searching
“ God search every Heart with his pure heavenly divine Light and Power, for
“ that will do none of us any Harm.

“ God

“ God is a God of Order and not of Confusion : He doth not lead his
“ Children to destroy the Testimonies one of another. But you that make a
“ Profession of the Truth, and yet can pay Tithes, do undervalue the Testi-
“ monies of us who for Conscience-sake cannot pay Tithes, and also of many
“ of our Brethren who are taken out of the Body, which sealed their Testimony
“ with their Lives, and died Prisoners, being cast into Prison for their faithful
“ Testimonies against Tithes : I say, you that pay Tithes make our Testimony
“ void, as much as in the Strength of the Matter lieth. You that have been
“ longer convinced, and should be good Examples to the new convinced Ones,
“ rather throw Stumbling-blocks in their Way.

“ Therefore be not deceived ; he that serveth to the wicked One, must receive
“ his Wages accordingly ; and he that serveth to God, shall receive from God
“ his Wages, which will be Peace in his own Conscience. *Friends*, I beseech
“ you bear with me, for I do not desire to boast my self, but to clear my Con-
“ science of this Matter, which hath lain as a Weight or Burden upon the
“ Seed in me for some Years. I have considered, and seriously took a View,
“ and seen some lie in Prison, and some suffer deeply the Spoiling of their
“ Goods ; and have heard of others in other Countries which have suffered far
“ more deeply than I have seen, for their honest and faithful Testimony against
“ Tithes : And also seen others make a Profession of the same God, and yet
“ pay Tithes ; that troubled me, and often caused my Soul to be more than
“ usually sad : Then the Lord shewed me, that we were not all of one Heart
“ and of one Mind, and that we did not all obey one Teacher in this Matter.
“ God hath raised up many living Witnesses, that the Substance is come,
“ (blessed be his holy Name for evermore) which puts an End to all the
“ Tithes and Shadows of the Law in the first Covenant, when the outward
“ Temple, and outward Tabernacle, and old Priesthood, were standing ; then
“ the Priests offered up for the Sins of the People, and God accepted it : The
“ People paid a tenth Part of all which they did possess, as an Offering to the
“ Priest, and I do believe that God was pleased with it in that Day and Time :
“ But it is not so now, for now every Man and Woman must offer to the
“ Eternal High-Priest, a living and spiritual Sacrifice of God’s preparing.
“ Therefore knowing him to be come, *viz.* Christ, who is the Wisdom and
“ Power of God, who put an End to the first Covenant, to the outward Taber-
“ nacle, and outward Temple, and the old Priesthood, and its Tithes, and hath
“ ended all the Types and Shadows of the Law, there can be no more pay-
“ ing Tithes to the Priests, nor Impropiators, under the Gospel Dispensation,
“ and be clear in the Sight of God.

“ *Friends*, this Matter of Tithes lieth such a Burden upon me, I cannot
“ leave it yet ; for that which payeth Tithes, and that which receiveth Tithes,
“ are both generated in one Womb : The Wife in Heart know the Mother of
“ them both ; for she is come in Remembrance before the great God of Heaven,
“ and as she hath done to others, it shall be done to her double, for God is
“ avenging himself of her, for down she must tumble like a great Millstone,
“ and must be consumed, and the Saints rejoice at the Smoke of her Burning,
“ though *Babel’s* Builders see it not.

“ Therefore, *Friends*, I beseech you, be you wholly separated from her before
“ it be too late, and you perish without Remedy. Be warned in Time, *Friends* ;
“ let every one turn to the Lord, with our whole Heart, have no Dependence
“ upon any Thing but the true and living God, for there is yet a Door of
“ Mercy open, and *he that will come, may come, and take of the Water of Life*
“ *freely, without Money, and without Price.* *Friends, in the Name of the Lord*
“ *there is everlasting Strength* : Therefore, *Friends*, be encouraged in the Name
“ of the Lord, you tender-hearted Ones, to whom Tithes is become a Bur-
“ den : I dearly intreat you in the Lord’s Behalf, Give up and be faithful to
“ what you know, and let your whole Dependence be in the Lord alone, and if
“ he doth not do that for you, which never Man could do, believe him not ;
“ but if he doth that for you, that never Man could do, believe him for the
“ Work’s

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“ Work’s Sake. *Friends*, the Eyes of all are upon us, some watching for
“ Evil, and some for Good; and some take Notice of our *Friends* lying in
“ Prison for Non-payment of Tithes, and also see others suffer deeply the
“ Spoiling of their Goods, and also see others pay Tithes, and they know we
“ that suffer Imprisonment, and he that suffers Spoiling of Goods, and also he
“ that payeth Tithes, make a Profession all of one Religion, and all to be
“ guided by the Spirit of God.

“ *Friends*, let him be Judge, to whom all Judgment is committed, for
“ is this like to reach the Witness of God in our Neighbours, and Enemies,
“ and them that take Notice of us, and to signify to that of God in them,
“ that we are a People, all of one Heart and of one Mind? Or will it not
“ rather signify, that we are a double-minded People? When one strives to
“ pull down that which another builds, the Building cannot go so well forwards.
“ But notwithstanding all Oppositions, God will have his Work go forwards,
“ and will have a People that shall bear his Name in Truth and Righteousness:
“ Yea, blessed and magnified be the Name of the Lord, who hath by the
“ outstretched Arm of his mighty Power gathered a Remnant into the Cove-
“ nant of Light and Life, and to bear his Name and Truth in Righteousness,
“ and are made willing through the Love of God (to his Honour be it spoken)
“ to take up the Cross and despise the Shame, whom this Testimony doth not
“ concern as to Matter of Charge: Therefore, *Friends*, beware of taking that to
“ you which doth not concern you as to Matter of Charge; but let this Testi-
“ mony go to whom it doth concern, for I know it concerns too many, the
“ more’s the Pity.

“ And, *Friends*, you that are made willing, through the Love of God, to
“ bear a Testimony against Tithes, I intreat you to be faithful, and let there
“ be no private Consenting to Wives, nor Relations, nor Neighbours, paying
“ for private Tithes, as Wool, Milk, and Eggs, and such Kind of Things,
“ and other petty Matters, as the Priests count their Due, and the great
“ Tithes also. *Friends*, I say for the Truth’s Sake, and for Conscience sake,
“ let there not be any Thing of that Nature harboured in any of your Breasts,
“ and private Consenting to any of these Matters, for it is all Abomination in
“ the Sight of God: And though you may hide from Man, there is no Hiding
“ from God, for the Lord is bringing the hidden Things of *Esau* to Light.
“ It is the Desire of my Heart, and the Breathing of my Soul unto God, that
“ the Hindermost of the Flock may come in that Life wherein there is
“ Power to resist the Devil in all his subtil Temptations, and that all that have
“ gone astray, may come to know the true Shepherd’s Crook, and fully re-
“ turn to him who is the Shepherd and Bishop of the Souls of the Righteous:
“ For the Lord desireth not the Death of Sinners, but rather that they would
“ return and live.

“ RICHARD BRADSHAW.”

This Testimony carries with it an Evidence of the Sincerity and Uprightness
of the Person who writ it, and of a true Concern for his Brethren, that they
might be united in the Practice of those Christian Testimonies which they made
Profession of; and not draw back for Fear of Sufferings.

ANNO 1682. On the 2d of the Month called June, the following Persons
were in Prison at Northampton for their refusing to pay Tithes, namely, *Nicholas*
Day, *Edmund Mackerness*, and *Peter Mackerness*, on Writs de *Excommunicato*
capiendo, for Tithes; the two Former having then lain there about two
Years, and the Latter about five Years: *William Miller*, who had been confined
there about three Years: *Robert Ashby*, *John Ashby*, and *Thomas Hascott*, who
had then been Prisoners four Years and an Half: Also *John Keming* and
William Barnes, at the Suit of *Harris*, Priest of *Kislingbury*.

In this Year *Peter Jaban*, a Frenchman, was imprisoned at Northampton for
refusing to pay towards the Repairs of the Steeple-house; and for the same
Cause *George Mackerness*, of *Scaldwell*, Husbandman, was committed to
Prison

Notes
thereon.

Imprisonments
for sundry
Causes.

Prison by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, on the 21st of December this Year.

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Distress for Meetings.

In the same Year, George Ayres, of Farthingstone, for his Attendance at religious Meetings, had three Warrants granted against him, by Henry Benson Justice, for 10l. 5s. each, for which were taken from him, two Horses, six Cows, two Calves, forty one Sheep, a Sow and six Pigs, a Waggon, Corn, Utensils for Husbandry, Wood, Household Goods, and other Things, worth 46l. 15s. 11d.

Besides which, he had taken away for Absence from the National Worship, Pewter worth 15s.

For the same Cause also were taken from Susanna Bilton and William Basely, Goods worth 4l. 10s.

And from Benjamin Wright, of Blaxley, for being at a Meeting, were taken Goods worth 6s. 9d.

A violent Promoter of the Distress, made on the aforesaid George Ayres, was John Hutton the Priest of Farthingstone, who presently after his Sermon, or Service, was over, spake to the Parish-Officers about making the Distress, desiring them to do their Work thoroughly. At which Time Thomas Hogg, one of the Informers, promised the Parson that he would take Care to see it thoroughly managed; and accordingly, the said Hogg, with another Informer, a Servant to the Priest, attended the Officers, urging them to take all they could find: But the Officers thinking they had sufficient, did not take away their Bedding, which the Informers would have done, and threatened to come again for the Rest. A short Time after, the said George Ayres with his Wife, and Susanna Bilton Widow, each of the Women having a sucking Child at her Breast, were sent to Prison for Want of Distress, for Absence from the National Worship, the said Priest Hutton, their Prosecutor, having said, as was credibly reported, that he would rid the Town of them all. The said Susanna Bilton, being in Prison, had taken from her, by Justice Benson's Warrant, for being at a Meeting, thirty six Sheep and two Cows, worth 18l. The Sheep and Cows being sold, the Officers brought back 5l. but instead of returning it to the Widow, paid most of it to the Priest for a Mortuary claimed by him on the Death of her Husband, and detained another Part for the Steeple-house Rate, till they had but eight Shillings remaining, which the Widow refused to receive, lest she should thereby seem to consent to their unjust Distribution of the Rest.

Prosecution of G. Ayres and Others.

Priest Hutton a fierce Prosecutor.

John Ayres, of Litchborow, for Meetings, suffered Distress of his Goods to the Value of 4l. 14s. 3d. being all the Prosecutors at that Time had Opportunity to come at.

J. Ayres.

On the 28th of the Month called May this Year, the aforesaid Priest Hutton, attended by his Servant Matthew Arnold, and Thomas Hogg, Informers, with Constables and others charged to assist them, came to the Meeting at Farthingstone with a Justices's Warrant, which they read in the Meeting, and took the Names of some Persons present: After which the Priest, and Hogg the Informer, charged the Constables with them, who with their Assistants drew most of them out of the Meeting by Violence, overturning the Forms, and throwing them into the Street. In which Work the Priest's Servant was very active, being commended by his Master for his Industry therein: They nailed up one of the Doors of the Meeting-house, and kept Watch at the other, pretending that they seized the House for the King.

Violent Doings at Farthingstone.

On the 2d of the Month called June, Elizabeth Basely, Sarah Daniel, and Alice Nicholas, were Prisoners in Northampton for Fines imposed on them for Absence from the National Worship; and on the 13th of the same, James Wells suffered Distress of Goods worth 8s. 8d. for his Wife's being at a Meeting at Farthingstone.

Prisoners.

About the 23d of the Month called July, Hutton the Priest, with Hogg the Informer, came to break up the Meeting at Farthingstone, where Richard Bradshaw not moving at their Command, they violently haled him out, and caused him to be set in the Stocks, together with John Gibbins, and kept them

both

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More Impri-
sonments.

Employment
in Prison.

S. Cox im-
prisoned on
a Writ de
Excom. Cap.

S. Bradshaw
imprisoned.

J. Loft's
Letter to
G. Fox.

both lockt in near eight Hours. Next Day they procured a Warrant from Justice Needham, and carried them to him, who tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and sent them to Prison for refusing it.

On the 17th of the Month called August, John Hart and Nicholas Read, of Towcester, were committed to Prison by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, having been presented in the Ecclesiastical Court, for Absence from the National Worship, by the Wardens of that Parish, who had themselves been first presented there, by the Priest of the same Parish, for Neglect of what he called their Duty.

On the 20th of the same Month, the following Persons, having been taken at Farthingstone Meeting, were by the Constable and others, at the Instigation of Priest Hutton, put into an empty House, and kept there all Night, and next Day carried before Justice Needham, a Captain, newly put into Commission of the Peace: Before him the Priest also appeared, pressing the Justice to tender them the Oaths; which when they refused to take, the Justice asked the Priest, *What he should do with them, seeing they would not Swear.* The Priest readily answered, *Make their Mittimus, and send them to Prison:* Which accordingly was done. Their Names were Thomas Smallbone, Richard Ellis, Anne Wells, Hannah Harris, Joane Dillingham, Margaret Simson, Dorothy Paine, Martha Line, Margaret Adams, Sarah Ingram, Elizabeth Gray, Mary Cumberleigh, and Elizabeth Freeman.

Some of these Women were married, and had Families of Children, others were sickly, and the rest Maids. In Prison they employed themselves in knitting, sewing, spinning, &c. for their Subsistence, having most of them little but what they wrought for.

On the 26th of October, Samuel Cox, of Woodford, was committed to Prison by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, after a Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical Court, carried on against him by William Gates, Priest of the Parish, for Absence from the publick Worship, and for Marriage Fees claimed by the Priest, though he had not been married by him, nor by any of his Function.

Edward Cowper had taken from him for Meetings, Goods to the Value of 9l.

ANNO 1683. On the 23d of the Month called April, a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo being issued against Samuel Bradshaw, of Northampton, for his not going to Church, he surrendered himself a Prisoner upon Proclamation.

About the 28th of the Month called May, John Loft, a Carrier of Tadcaster in Yorkshire, was taken from a Meeting at Whittlebury, and sent to Prison; of which take the Account given by himself in a Letter to George Fox, viz.

“ Dear GEORGE FOX,

“ I Was taken Prisoner next Day after I parted with thee at Whittlebury Meeting, and by one Longville, called a Justice, sent to Northampton Goal, to answer at the Sessions for being at a Conventicle, as he called it, and refusing to give Bond to be conformable to the Church of England. Since I was brought hither, I have been before them at the Sessions, and was asked some Questions, as *Where I lived?* I said, *I lived in the Fear of the Lord.* Being asked the same over again, I answered, *I live in the Truth.* At which they were offended, and said, *They would have no Canting.* After I did open my Business in the Country something to them, and told them my Name, and where I lived. Then I was asked, *If I would take the Oath of Allegiance?* I answered, that *Christ Jesus, the Everlasting King, had forbidden all Swearing long ago, and therefore I would not Swear.* They said, *I might have Time to consider of it, and I might have it read.* I said, *I had considered it already:* And willing to speak something more, they hindered me, and said, *We will have no Preaching here: Take him away Gaoler.* However Peace with the Lord is the Portion of all those who suffer for Well-doing, and through the Lord's Love I have that Peace in my Measure with the suffering Seed. Dear George, Friends here in Prison for the Testimony of

“ Truth,

" Truth, desire to have their Loves remembred to thee generally, and here
" we have good Meetings, praised be the Name of the Lord.

Northampton Goal, the 11th
of the Fourth Month 1683.

JOHN LOFT."

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On the 15th of the Month called July, Thomas Poole and Daniel Roe were taken at a Meeting in Bugbrook, and carried before the Justices at Northampton, before whom the Priest of Bugbrook, named Whitfield, appeared against them, and would have convicted them on his own single Information, telling the Justices, that He could not get one Soul else in all his Parish to appear against them: But the Justices would not convict them on his single Evidence. Failing in his Purpose in this Point, he insisted on the Justices tendring them the Oath of Allegiance, which they did, and upon their refusing to Swear, committed them to Prison.

Commitment
of T. Poole
and D. Roe.

On the 28th of the same Month, William Basely, of Farthingstone, was taken out of the Field from his Work, and carried before Justice Needham, who, for refusing to Swear, committed him to Prison, where his Wife was before, as we have already mentioned, and being in Prison, the Priest Hutton procured a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo against her, and continued her there. Thus, after he had prosecuted them for Meetings to the Loss of all their Substance, he found Means farther to manifest the Extent of his Malice, by imprisoning their Persons without any Prospect of Redemption.

Malicious Pro-
secutions.

On the 15th of September, John Bradford, of Little-Billing, and on the 2d of October, William Tibbs, of Bugbrook, were committed to Prison by Writs de Excommunicato capiendo. About this Time also were taken by Prosecutions on the Statute for 20l. per Month, for Absence from their Parish-Church,

	l.	s.	d.
From Thomas Cooke, of Weldon, seven Beasts, two Horses,	27	0	0
and Household Goods, to the Value of		0	0
The Widow Sewel, five Beasts worth	17	0	0
Thomas Boone, of Corby, thirteen Beasts and five	20	0	0
Hogs, worth		0	0
John Bland, of Brigstock, one Cow worth	2	0	0
Roger Booth, Goods worth	3	5	0
Sarah Palmer	1	7	0
Samuel Gaines	8	10	0
	79	2	0

Distresses for
Absence from
the National
Worship.

Thomas Charles was also indicted for the same Cause on the same Statute, and suffered Distress of his Goods.

Timothy Burberow and Thomas Mercer, were committed to Prison on Writs de Excommunicato capiendo; the Former having been prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for not bringing his Children to be baptized. Richard Gill was also committed to Prison on a Sessions Process, for Absence from his Parish-Church.

At the Lent Affizes in 1683-4, the Prisoners at Northampton delivered the following Petition, viz.

" To the JUDGES of Affize, and General-Goal-Delivery for this County
" of Northampton.

" The Humble Request of us whose Names are here under-written, being
" Prisoners in the County Goal belonging to the said County,

" S H E W E T H,

" T H A T we, most of us living upon our daily Labour, and honest
" Care to get a Livelihood for our Maintenance in the World, without
" being burdensome to any, about a Year and an Half since, being met
" together

Petition to the
Judges.

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Committees
of T. Poles
and D. Roe.

“ together for the Worship and Service of God at *Fartbingstone* in the said County,
“ were seized upon by a Constable and other Officers at our peaceable and
“ quiet Meeting at several Times, and at *Bugbrook* were brought thence before
“ Justice *Needham* of this County, who committed us to this Prison, where we
“ remain at this Time : May it please you therefore, that in Regard of our
“ long Confinement, our Condition may be inspected and examined, as in your
“ Wifdoms shall be thought fit, and then to deal with us according to our
“ inoffensive and suffering Condition, our Capacities being but mean in Things
“ pertaining to this Life, that you would be pleased to order our Delivery, of
“ which we should willingly accept, and as it is our Duty, shall give God
“ Thanks, on your and our Behalf, who alone is worthy of Glory and Honour
“ over all for ever and evermore. *Amen.* And we, who honour the Lord,
“ shall by our peaceable Living, shew our Love to all in Authority under
“ the King, unto whom we are subject for Conscience sake.

“ RICHARD BRADSHAW,	ELIZABETH FREEMAN,
“ JOHN GIBBINS,	MARGARET SIMPSON,
“ RICHARD ELLIS,	MARGARET ADAMS,
“ JOHN LOFT,	HANNAH HARRIS,
“ THOMAS POOLE,	ANNE WELLS,
“ DANIEL ROE,	MARTHA LINE,
“ JOHN PACKWOOD,	JANE BILLINGHAM,
“ JOSIAH PACKWOOD,	SARAH INGRAM,
“ WILLIAM BASELY,	DOROTHY PAYNE.”
“ ELIZABETH GREY,	

This Letter favours of that meek and patient Spirit wherewith this People endured the Hardships inflicted on them, and shews with what Humility and Submission they represented their Grievances to those in Authority. Nevertheless they were still continued Prisoners.

ANNO 1684. At the Quarter Sessions in the Month called *April*, the Prisoners at *Northampton* presented to the Justices a Book intituled *A Treatise of Oaths*, together with the following State of their Case, viz.

“ *A few Words to the MAGISTRATES, now sitting in Sessions*
“ *at Northampton.*

The Prisoners
present a State
of their Case
to the Quar-
ter Sessions.

“ U N T O you, we the People called *Quakers* have several Times wrote
“ to consider, that we, being tender of God’s Glory, have from Time
“ to Time been willing to persuade and beseech you to stay your Hand in
“ afflicting us upon the Account of Swearing, than which nothing else, ever
“ since we have been a People, could have been more used against us to cause
“ our Sufferings, viz. *Oaths* : Although we have cleared our selves in that
“ Point, answering all the Objections that render us Guilty, both in Regard to
“ all in Authority, and all others that have spoke any Thing against our Obe-
“ dience to Christ Jesus in that main Point, *Swear not at all* ; not thereby to
“ be short to any that hath Authority over us, but if we might, in the Truth
“ of our Hearts, should manifest our Faithfulness both to God and Man. We
“ therefore have sent in our Behalf a Book for you, or as any of you are con-
“ cerned, wherein that our Practice of *not Swearing at all* is vindicated and
“ justified by many learned Men of all Sorts, to read at your Leisure, that was
“ on our Behalf, as a People, presented to the King and his great Council as-
“ sembled in Parliament, as may be seen in the Perusal of the Discourse it self,
“ which we hope you will accept of and consider : In the which we only seek,
“ that we might but enjoy the Happiness of living among you in Peace and
“ Quietness, under the King, in the Land of our Nativity, to be an Help
“ according to our Ability for the Prosperity of all that dwell therein.

“ And

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“ And for us who suffer for Righteousness, this know, it was the Practice of
 “ all who honoured God in all Ages, to have an high Esteem of Magistrates,
 “ being ordained and impowered of God to that high Calling, which if rightly
 “ discharged, brings with it the Blessing of God in this World, and they come
 “ to receive that Wisdom which is from Above, to judge by, betwixt Man and
 “ Man, to preserve Peace and Unity among the People, which are the World
 “ of Mankind, which have been led by an evil Spirit from that Obedience that
 “ of Right is due from all Men to be given to the Lord their God: And
 “ hence comes Strife, Debate, Murder, and every evil Work, which by the
 “ Ordinance of the pure God, Magistrates ought to suppress in every Age of
 “ the World. And all those Rulers, Kings and others, that fulfilled their
 “ Places in giving God the Glory due to his Honour, they purchased an
 “ honourable Name in the Truth, and are worthy to have their Names re-
 “ corded in the Register of Life Immortal, and in the Records of Worth
 “ among Men in this World: So that you may come to have your Names
 “ among those before gone, and amongst the present faithful Lovers, and
 “ Favourers, and Honourers of the Most High, to whom is Renown for ever
 “ and evermore.

“ And we send this Book in Love, that you may understand that our
 “ Practice in this Point is no Fancy, or from a lewd Spirit, but grounded on
 “ the Truth of God, and that your Judgment might in the Truth be swayed
 “ in this weighty Point.”

*From Northampton Goal, the 9th Day
 of the Second Month 1684.*

The aforefaid Letter and Book were received by Sir Roger Norris, who at that Time appeared favourably inclined toward the Prisoners; but they did not obtain any present Relief.

At the same Sessions *Thomas Boughton*, of *King-Cliff*, was prosecuted for Absence from the National Worship.

On the 27th of the Month called *May*, *William Hackney* having been cited to appear at Sessions for absenting from the publick Worship, surrendered himself there to the Bayliff who cited him, and was by him delivered into the Custody of the Goaler, without any Direction or Order from the Bench.

About this Time *John Loft*, who had been in Prison above a Year for refusing to Swear, was set at Liberty, having some Time before written a Letter to Sir *Henry Longville*, the Justice that committed him, a Copy of which here follows:

“ Friend HENRY LONGVILLE!

“ I N the Fear of the Lord I desire thee to consider how thou hast abused
 “ that Power which the Lord hath committed into thy Hand, as thou art
 “ a professed *Christian* Magistrate, in sending any to Prison, or otherwise
 “ causing any to suffer for their exercising of Faith in Matters of Spiritual
 “ Worship. Read *John* iv. Verse 21, 22. there thou mayst see what Christ
 “ Jesus said to the Woman of *Samaria*, who spake of God's Worship being at
 “ *Jerusalem*, and that they worshipped at that Mountain where that Well was
 “ that *Jacob* bought: But said Christ unto her, *Woman, the Hour cometh, and*
 “ *now is, that neither at this Mountain, nor at Jerusalem, shall ye worship the*
 “ *Father: Ye worship ye know not what: God is a Spirit, and they that worship*
 “ *him, must worship him in Spirit and in Truth.* And the Lord knows, I had
 “ nothing in mine Heart in my going to that Meeting, but in Sincerity to
 “ perform my Duty to that holy God, who is a Spirit, and must be wor-
 “ shipped in his Spirit's Leadings. And we were not plotting against the
 “ King, nor any of his Subjects, but rather praying to God both for him and
 “ the Nation, that Sin, that provokes the Lord God, might be departed from,
 “ and that Love to God, and one towards another, might be increased: And

*John Loft's
 Letter to Sir
 Henry Long-
 ville.*

NORTH-
AMPTON-
SHIRE.
1684.

“ so I durst do no other than deny giving Bond to go no more to such Meet-
“ ings, whatever my Sufferings had been. Now God being the highest Power,
“ who created all Men to serve him, and will call all Men to give an Account
“ to him of all our Deeds done in this World, how ought poor Mortals to
“ fear before him from the highest to the lowest. So all Magistrates, Kings
“ as well as others, ought to honour him, by being a Terror to Evil-doers,
“ and Encouragers of all that live a sober and quiet Life in the Fear of the
“ Lord; for Christ said to his People that were persecuted for their Love and
“ Obedience to him, *Fear not them that can only kill the Body, and afterwards*
“ *can do no more, but fear him that is able to cast both Body and Soul into Hell*
“ *Fire.* Thou mayst read the xxvth Chapter of *Matthew*, Verse 33, and 34,
“ to the End, and there thou mayst see how Christ takes that which is done
“ unto his People that suffer for their Love and Obedience to him, as done
“ unto himself. And in *Matthew* vth, thou mayst see who are blessed of
“ God, the Meek of the Earth, the Merciful, the Poor in Spirit, and they
“ that mourn, for they shall be comforted; and, *Blessed are you when Men*
“ *shall revile you, and persecute you, and speak Evil of you falsely for my Name's*
“ *Sake.* Such as are here mentioned are blessed of the Lord. And in the
“ same Chapter thou mayst see, Verse 24 to 37, how Christ Jesus forbids all
“ Swearing. So that my Imprisonment, which thou hast caused to come upon
“ me, this hard Winter, and last Summer, thou mayst seriously take Notice,
“ is the Cause of my writing this; desiring whilst thou hast Time, thou mayst
“ prize it, and seek to the Lord to forgive thy Trespas against him by breaking
“ his righteous Law writ in thy Heart, and in all Hearts, and in the Scriptures
“ of Truth, where Christ saith, *Do unto all Men as ye would they should do*
“ *unto you.* Matt. vii. 12. And these weighty Truths being laid to Heart,
“ then I know thou will be as ready to set at Liberty, as thou wast rash and
“ forward to cast into Prison, him that never did thee any Wrong, nor the
“ King, nor never plotted his Harm, nor never will, but wisheth the Ever-
“ lasting Good both of him and all People. So having laid my innocent
“ Suffering before thee, and as on my Part also forgiven thee, I leave thee to
“ the Light of Christ, by which all Men must be judged, saved, or condemned,
“ and from him receive the final Sentence of *Come ye Blessed, or Go ye Cursed.*
“ The Reason is to be seen, *Matt. xxv. 31.* to the End.

Written in Northampton Goal, the 16th
of the last Month 1683-4.

“ JOHN LOFT.”

The Manner of the said *John Loft's* Discharge is fully exprest in a Letter
written by himself to *George Fox*, being as follows:

John Loft's
Letter to
George Fox.

“ Dear GEORGE FOX,
“ MY sincere and unfeigned Love salutes thee, as one whom the Lord
“ hath truly honoured with his Life, and living refreshing Wisdom,
“ which is from Above, in which I feel thy Care to preserve what thou canst
“ of them the Lord hath gathered from under the Spirit and Power of Error,
“ and out of Strife, and whatever would break that Unity that stands in the
“ Truth, where is thy Rest, I believe, with the Faithful, that put their Confi-
“ dence, not in the Arm of Flesh, but in God alone.
“ At the Sessions held at *Northampton* this last Week, I was called before
“ him called *Sir Roger Norris*, and several other Justices: One of them was he
“ which sent me to Prison, to whom I writ, and as I understood, he shewed it
“ them all, not at Sessions, but in the Goaler's Garden, after they were risen
“ the first Day; and when they came out of the Garden they sent for me
“ before them, and he, call'd *Sir Roger Norris*, called for my *Mittimus*, and read
“ it to himself. Then he or some other said, *I was committed for being at a*
“ *Conventicle.* I said, *I was at none: I was with a People that met together to*
“ *wait upon the Lord, and to worship him, as was the Duty of all Men.* Then
“ they

“ they said, I was accused for being a Teacher there : I said, I was no Teacher ;
 “ but we meeting as the primitive Christians did, and waiting upon God, he taught
 “ us by his Spirit, and this was the Privilege of all the true Church, or to this
 “ Purpose, and judged I might thus speak, when the Lord put Words into my
 “ Mind, and did, and we did pray to God, and exhort one another to that which
 “ is good. Some then said, I was guilty out of my own Mouth. I said, It
 “ was Truth what I had spoken. Then some said among themselves, We may
 “ fine him 20 l. Then he called Sir Roger Norris, asked me the Names of our
 “ Justices, and Where I lived ? I told them, I lived about eight Miles off York,
 “ when at Home ; but said, If you intend to have my Goods taken from me, I
 “ am not willing to hurt my self. So I told no Names. Then he call’d Sir
 “ Roger Norris, said, If I would give Bond, I should have Liberty, and appear
 “ if they sent for me. I said, I was not convinced of any Wrong I had done to
 “ any, the King or any of his Subjects ; and so would give no Bond, but if they
 “ would take my Word, I would promise, if Health and Liberty allowed. The
 “ Goaler standing by, said to them, He will give no Bond, for he told his Brother
 “ he would never own him again ; [viz. if he were bound for me.] But I did
 “ not say just so to my Brother, though I did hinder him always as much as I
 “ could, believing the Lord was able, when he pleased, to work my Deli-
 “ verance. So at the last Sir Roger Norris said, I should have my Liberty,
 “ paying the Goaler’s Fees. After the Sessions were over next Day, the Goaler
 “ when I spake with him, said, He was to tell me from Sir Roger Norris, that
 “ he would remit my Fine, and if I paid my Fees, I might go my Ways. I said,
 “ I could pay none, being a Sufferer for no Wrong done to any. After two or
 “ three Hours he said, He would leave it to me, but if I did not answer it,
 “ he would trust none more for my Sake.
 “ There were no other Friends called, nor set at Liberty. One that before
 “ went out upon Bond, writ to them, and laid his Condition before them,
 “ that he was a poor Man, and had a great Sort of Children, and had little but
 “ his Hand Labour to maintain them with : However, they did not answer his
 “ Desire. One more was sent to Prison on a Sessions Process. This with my
 “ dear Love. Going to Yorkshire.

NORTH-
AMPTON-
SHIRE.
1684.

Northampton, the 1st of
the Fourth Month 1684.

“ JOHN LOFT.

“ P. S. Friends at Leeds still are sore persecuted, both by Imprison-
 “ ment and Spoil of Goods.”

About this Time John Lane, taken at a Meeting in Northampton, had the
 Oath tendred him by the Mayor and Aldermen, and for refusing to take it was
 committed to Prison. Also John King, Richard Baker, Thomas Langford, Joshua
 Hart, John Francis, John Grove, and William Ashby, being taken at a Meeting
 at Whittlebury, were carried in a Waggon to Northampton, and next Day had
 the Oath tendred them by the Justices, and for not taking it were committed to
 Prison.

Imprisonments
for refusing to
Swear.

About the 3d of September, Nicholas Read, after above two Years Confine-
 ment for his religious Testimony, died a Prisoner.

Death of
N. Read.

On the 31st of October, Rebecca Sewel, of Brigstock, for frequenting religious
 Meetings, suffered Distress of six Cows to the Value of 24 l.

Distress on
R. Sewel.

On the 23d of November, Edward Cowper, Thomas Dent, Edward Foster,
 Alexander Manning, and John Gill, were taken from a Meeting in Northampton,
 and committed to Prison as Rioters.

Imprison-
ments.

On the 8th of the Month called January, George Warner, James Warner,
 Roger Booth, and Thomas Cattell, taken at a Meeting in the House of Simon
 Mutton, of Geddington, had the Oaths of Allegiance, &c. tendred them by
 Roger Norris, Justice, and for refusing to Swear, were committed to Goal.

On the 1st of the Month called June this Year, Peter Mackerness died a Pri-
 soner ; and on the 1st of September, Thomas Hasker departed this Life in the same
 State, having both suffered Imprisonment for Tithes about seven Years.

Death of
P. Macker-
ness and T.
Hasker.

ANNO

NORTH-
AMPTON-
SHIRE.
1685.

Imprisonment
of R. Thorp.

Indictments
for Absence
from the Na-
tional Worship.

ANNO 1685. On the 31st of the Month called *March*, *Richard Thorp* was arrested for 220^l. for eleven Months Absence from his Parish-Church, and carried to Prison, where he lay five Weeks, and then was removed by an *Habeas Corpus* to the *King's-Bench* at London.

At the Quarter Sessions in or about the Month called *April* this Year, *Tobias Brown*, *William Freshly*, *John Knighton*, *Thomas Boon* and *Susanna* his Wife, *Joseph Clark* and his Wife, *Thomas Charles*, *William Line*, *William Chandler*, *Thomas Atkins*, *Anne Winkles*, *Sarah Daniel*, *Alice Nichols*, *Elizabeth Basely*, *Richard Vial*, *John Bland*, *Mary Traslow*, *Thomas Allen*, *Thomas Cooke* and his Wife, *Thomas Cooke jun.* *Simon Mutton*, *Alexander Clark*, *John Thrift*, *Henry Ashby*, *William Griffin*, and *William Chapel's* Wife, were indicted for Absence from their Parish-Church, and put to considerable Expence and Charge.

In this Year *Thomas Boughton*, one of the Prisoners at *Northampton*, exhibited to the Justices at their Quarter Sessions there, the following Certificate.

" To His MAJESTY's Justices of the Peace, of the Honourable Bench,
" at the General Quarter Sessions, to be holden for the County of
" Northampton, and all others whom it may concern.

Certificate of
T. Boughton
to the Justices.

" WE the Inhabitants of *King's-Olliffe*, in the County aforesaid, whose
" Names are hereunto subscribed, do hereby certify, that *Thomas*
" *Boughton*, of our said Town, being now a Prisoner in the Prison of *North-*
" *ampton* aforesaid, for not conforming himself to the Church of *England*,
" now established by Law, hath neither himself, nor any of his Predecessors,
" to our best Knowledge, at any Time been taxed or accused for any Dis-
" loyalty: And that his Father, for his Loyalty in the Time of our most
" gracious Sovereign Lord King *Charles the First*, was a great Sufferer, both
" in his Person and Goods, by the rebellious Party: And that the said *Thomas*
" *Boughton*, now in Prison as aforesaid, hath born all Offices considerable in
" our said Town, and hath discharged his Duty very well in the Execution
" of them, as well in yielding Obedience to the Precepts and Warrants from his
" Majesty's Justices of the Peace, as in doing and performing any other
" Matter, Cause, or Thing, whatsoever, that concerned the same. And far-
" ther that the said *Thomas Boughton*, now in Prison as aforesaid, is a Person of
" an honest and peaceable Conversation, and not at any Time, as we know,
" guilty of any disloyal Practices against the Government as aforesaid, but
" always behaved himself as a peaceable Subject of the same. Witness our
" Hands this eighteenth Day of *December*, in the first Year of the Reign of
" our gracious Sovereign Lord *James the Second*, by the Grace of God of
" *England, Scotland, France, and Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, &c.
" Annoq; Dom. 1685.

" THOMAS SOUTH, Rector, ibm.

RICHARD BUGBY,

" WM. GORHAM,

The Mark of ZACHARY LUFF, sen.

" RICHARD WILBOROW,

WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER,

" ROBERT HILL,

HENRY ATKINS."

" WE his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of *Northampton*,
" whose Names are here-under written, do certify, that the said *Thomas*
" *Boughton* is a Person of an honest and peaceable Conversation to the best of
" our Observation, and not at any Time, as we know, guilty of any disloyal
" Practices against the Government, but hath always behaved himself as a
" peaceable Subject of the same. Witness our Hands

" R. NORWICH,

" L. PALMER."

At

At the same Sessions were also exhibited the following *Certificates*, viz.

NORTH-AMPTON-SHIRE.
1685.

“ *Northton* fs.

“ **T**HESE are to certify whom it shall or may concern, that *Timothy Burborow*, *Thomas Fowler*, and *Thomas Mercer*, late Inhabitants of the Town of *Aynoe* in the County of *Northampton*, and now Prisoners in the said County Goal, and have been there two of them a Year and three Quarters, and the other a Year and a Quarter or thereabouts, upon the Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo*, for no other Cause but Non-conformity, being called *Quakers*, are notwithstanding Persons of a peaceable and honest Conversation, and not at any Time, as we know, guilty of any disloyal Practices against the Government, but have always behaved themselves as peaceable Subjects of the same; and therefore humbly conceive their said Offences to be pardonable by Virtue of a Warrant dated the 18th of *April* 1685, whereby his now Majesty hath been graciously pleased to signify the same for the Relief of those who have testified their Loyalty and Affection to the Government, as in the said Warrant more largely doth appear. In Testimony whereof we the Inhabitants of *Aynoe* aforesaid, and Neighbours ancient, have hereunto set our Hands this seven and twentieth Day of *December*, in the first Year of the Reign of his Majesty that now is, *Annoq; Dom.* 1685.

Certificate for T. Burborow and others.

“ THOMAS NORRIS <i>Churchwarden</i> ,	EDWARD HOMAN <i>Churchwarden</i> ,
“ WM. BORTON <i>Overseer</i> ,	SAMUEL BADING <i>Overseer</i> ,
“ EDWARD JARVIS <i>Constable</i> ,	JO. LAWLEY,
“ JO. SPENCER,	HENRY BORTON,
“ JOHN BORTON,	WILLIAM HOWES,
“ EDWARD GODCHEER,	THO. HANSLAYS,
“ GILES SOUTHAM,	EDWARD LETCH,
“ LABAN TOMLINS,	JOHN JEFFS,
“ WILLIAM JEFFS,	THOMAS TOMKINS,
“ JOHN SPENCER,	THOMAS SMITH,
“ WM. BORTON <i>sen.</i>	MATTHEW BORTON.

“ **W**E whose Names are under-written, being Justices of the Peace for the County of *Northampton*, do certify, that *Timothy Burborow*, *Thomas Fowler*, and *Thomas Mercer*, above-named, are Persons of a peaceable and honest Conversation, and not at any Time, as we know, guilty of any disloyal Practices against the Government, but always behaving themselves as peaceable Subjects of the same. Witness our Hands the 5th of *January* 1685.

“ JO. GARDINER,
“ JO. WOODHUTT.

“ *Northton* fs.

“ **T**HESE are to certify whom it shall or may concern, that *John Grove*, late of *Whittlebury* in the County of *Northampton*, and now a Prisoner in the said County Goal, and hath been there about a Year and an Half, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, (being one called a *Quaker*) is notwithstanding a Person of a peaceable and honest Conversation, and not at any Time, as we know, guilty of any disloyal Practices against the Government, but hath always behaved himself as a peaceable Subject of the same, and therefore humbly conceive the said Offence to be pardonable by Virtue of a Warrant dated the 18th of *April* 1685, wherein his now Majesty hath been graciously pleased to signify the same for the Relief of those who have testified their Loyalty and Affection to the Government, as in the said Warrant more largely doth appear. In Testimony whereof, we the Inhabitants

Certificate for J. Grove.

NORTH-
AMPTON-
SHIRE.
1685.

" of *Whittlebury*, and Neighbours adjacent, have hereunto set our Hands this
" seven and twentieth Day of *November*, in the first Year of the Reign of his
" Majesty that now is, *Annoq; Dom. 1685.*

" SIMON WATERMAN } Churchwardens,
" ROBERT ASHLEY }
" JOSEPH FOSTER Constable,
" WILLIAM ROLFE,
" BER. STEPHENS,
" BENJAMIN FOSTER,

JOHN GARDINER,
WOOLSTON BRABROOK,
EDWARD RICHARDS,
SIMON LOVEL,
JOHN HOUGHTON."

" WE whose Names are under-written, being Justices of the Peace for
" the County of *Northampton*, do certify, that *John Grove* above-
" named, is a Person of a peaceable and honest Conversation, and not at any
" Time, as we know, guilty of any disloyal Practices against the Govern-
" ment, but always behaving himself as a peaceable Subject of the same.
" Witness our Hands this 14th Day of *December 1685.*

" JO. GARDINER,
" JO. WOODHUTT,
" R. NORWICH."

Some Months before these Certificates were signed, the Prisoners had repre-
sented their Case to the Members of Parliament for that County, in Manner
following, viz.

" To the KNIGHTS and BURGESSES for the County of *Northampton*,
" now assembled in Parliament.

To the Mem-
bers of Par-
liament.

" WE, the poor oppressed and suffering People of God in your
" County, called *Quakers*, do in the Humility of our Minds, make
" it our Request and Desire, that you would be pleased to take into your
" serious Consideration the great and heavy Sufferings that for many Years
" we have passed through, and still do undergo, only for the Exercise of
" our Consciences toward Almighty God, and to use your friendly and
" Christian Endeavours for our Relief; for several of us have had our Goods
" distrained and taken away by Informers, and our Bodies cast into Prison,
" and one Widow Woman of *Farthingstone*, after her Goods were taken away,
" cast into Prison, having six Children, one then sucking at her Breast, and
" is still a Prisoner. Some fined 12 d. a Sunday, and for not paying cast into
" Prison. Others, their Cattle seized by Bayliffs for 20 l. a Month, and
" drove away and sold, and many suffered Imprisonment at one Time last
" Year, near fourscore of us, and in this last Winter about threescore of us
" crowded together, and four of our Friends died Prisoners the Year past.
" But of late several are now upon Security to appear at the Assizes; yet
" there still remain in Prison thirty two Men and Women, some upon Bishops
" Writs, and some upon the Oath, most of us having been here above two
" Years, and some three or four Years; which Sufferings greatly tend to the
" ruining and undoing of many industrious Families that have helped to bear the
" Charge of the Nation, and they who have been in a Capacity to relieve others,
" may by such Means be reduced to stand in Need of Assistance themselves, if
" not timely prevented by your Care and Providence, who are now in a
" Capacity to move in our Behalf, and to use charitable Endeavours for our
" Relief and Liberties. We are not willing to particularize our Sufferings,
" which have been long and many, rather desiring that the Lord may move
" upon your Hearts with Bowels of Pity and Compassion, to the easing of a
" poor

"poor afflicted People, who have done neither King nor Nation any Wrong,
"and who are in Sincerity and Truth,

"*Your Christian Friends,*

NORTH-
AMPTON-
SHIRE.
1685.

Northampton Prison,
the 13th of the Fourth
Month 1685.

"JOHN LANE,

"JOHN ASHBY,

"GEO. MACKERNES,

"THO. BOUGHTON,

"JOSIAH PACKWOOD,

JOHN HART,

RICHARD BAKER,

TIMOTHY BURBOROW,

WILLIAM TIBBS,

JOHN TIBBS.

"Signed on the Behalf of our selves and our Fellow-Prisoners."

About the 7th of the Month called *March* this Year, *John Willoughby* and *William Elfe*, Justices, came to a Meeting at *Northampton*, and took thence Men, Women, and Children, to the Number of forty five, and sent them to Prison. At the next Assizes they were indicted for a Riot, but soon after discharged by a Warrant from the Attorney-General.

45 Persons
sent to Prison.

Discharged.

Toward the Close of this Year, the several Persons called *Quakers*, then in Prison at *Northampton*, either on Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*, or for Fines on *Exchequer* Process against them for Absence from the Church, or other Processes for their religious Assemblies, were generally set at Liberty by Virtue of the King's Proclamation. But a short Time before, viz. on the 9th of the Month called *March*, *Dorothy Paine* died a Prisoner.

Death of
D. Paine.

ANNO 1686. On the 21st of the Month called *April*, *Thomas Boone*, of *Corby*, for being present at the Interment of his own Wife, was fined as a Transgressor of the Law against Conventicles, and suffered Distress of his Goods for that supposed Offence, to the Value of 7*l*. And in the same Month *Thomas Cooke*, of *Weldon*, had taken from him for his attending religious Meetings, two Horses, and several Household Goods, worth 20*l*. Also *Samuel Cox*, of *Woodford*, suffered Distress of his Goods for absenting himself from the National Worship.

T. Boone
fined for being
at his Wife's
Burial.

On the 14th of *September*, the said *Thomas Cooke*, after a Prosecution in the Hundred Court for Tithes, at the Suit of *John Gates*, Priest, sustained the Loss of Household Goods by Distress, to the Value of 3*l*.

Tithes.

C H A P. XXVIII.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

NOTTING-
HAM-
SHIRE.
1649.

ANNO 1649.

THE first Imprisonment of *George Fox* was this Year at *Nottingham*, occasioned by his Opposition to one of the publick Preachers there, and by his testifying to the People the Excellency of the Teachings of the Holy Spirit, and the Necessity of Obedience thereunto, as the most certain and unerring Guide, leading into all Truth, and enabling to form a just Judgment of the Doctrines, Sentiments, and Opinions of Men. His Preaching at that Time was with an holy Zeal and Fervency, effectually reaching to the Consciences of many that heard him: Nevertheless, some took Offence at his Appearing in their Place of Worship, and the Officers of the Parish took him away, and put him into a nasty stinking Prison: Toward Evening they

First Impri-
sonment of
G. Fox.

NOTTING-
HAM-
SHIRE.
1649.

The High-
Sheriff con-
vinced.

George Fox
grievously
abused.

Imprisonments
and Distresses
for Tithes.

Abuses.

Fine.

Distress.

Grievous
Abuses.

they had him before the *Mayor* and *Aldermen*, who after some Examination, recommitted him. Some Time after, the High-Sheriff, whose Name was *John Reckless*, sent for him to his House; and at his Coming in, the Sheriff's Wife met him in the Hall, and taking him by the Hand, said, *Salvation is come to our House*: For both her Husband and she, were effectually reached and convinced by the Force and Energy of *George Fox's* Testimony, which had wrought such a Change in the High-Sheriff, that he himself, the next Market-day, went into the Streets, and preached Repentance to the People. Some others also in that Town found themselves under the like Concern. This Sheriff lodged *G. Fox* in his own House, entertaining him courteously; but the Mayor, and some other Magistrates, were the more incensed against him, so that they caused him to be taken from the Sheriff's House, and sent to the Common-Goal, where he remained Prisoner a considerable Time.

After his Release from that Imprisonment, he went into the Place of publick Worship at *Mansfield-Woodhouse*, and there declared the Testimony of Truth to the Priest and People; but his *Christian* Love met with unkind Reception, for the People fell upon him, and struck him down, almost smothering him, for they beat and bruised him cruelly with their Hands, Sticks, and Bibles; then they dragged him out, scarce able to stand, and put him in the Stocks, where he sat some Hours; and they brought Whips, threatening to whip him: After some Time they took him to a Knight's House, where were many Magistrates, who seeing how ill he had been used, after some Threatning, set him at Liberty: But the rude People again assaulted him, and stoned him out of the Town.

ANNO 1658. *John Cowper*, of *Skebbie*, for conscientiously refusing to pay a Demand of 16s. on him for Tithes, had three Cows taken from him worth 10l.

William Claytor, of *Elton*, was *subpœna'd* at the Suit of *Dove Williamson*, a Priest there, into the *Exchequer* at *London*, where he personally appeared, but, not employing an Attorney, was sent to the *Fleet*, as if he had not appeared, and lay there two Years: During which Time, the Priest and his Servants made Spoil of his Goods at Home, carrying off an whole Load of his Corn together. He was afterward sued by the said Priest in the Court of *Common-Pleas*, and a Verdict was obtained against him for 20l. Upon that Verdict, Execution was awarded, and his Goods taken from him to the Value of 42l. He was also detained in Prison three Years and a Quarter.

William Smith, of *Besthorp*, suffered nine Weeks Imprisonment for Tithes. And for the same Cause *Edward Langford*, of *North-Sellingham*, was imprisoned about seven Weeks: And in the next Year he was again cast into Prison, and there remained several Years. *Thomas Elsham*, of *Gerton*, also suffered Imprisonment for refusing to pay Tithes.

About this Time *Mary Leadbeater*, and *Anne Fricknall*, were grievously abused by the People, and set in the Stocks at *Mansfield-Woodhouse*, for some Words they had spoken displeasing to a Priest there.

Robert Wilde, of *Wellerton*, was fined 3l. 6s. 8d. for not putting off his Hat in Court.

ANNO 1659. *George Rogers*, of *Wellam*, for going a few Miles to a Meeting on the First-day of the Week, had his Horse taken, and kept from him two or three Days: After which, they distrained his Goods for a pretended Fine of 10s. for breaking the Sabbath.

On the 7th of November this Year, *William Dewsberry*, preaching at a Meeting at *Newark* upon *Trent*, was insulted and much abused by the People: However the Meeting was held, through much Disturbance, and at the Close of it, another Meeting was appointed at the same Place on the 11th of the same Month, being the First-day of the Week, at which, while the Testimony of Truth was declaring, a rude Multitude broke in, thrusting down both Men and Women, buffeting, punching, and stoning them, so that some were knocked down, others had their Teeth beaten out, and their Faces bruised: Women had

had their Head-clothes pull'd off : After this Manner they continued to abuse about an Hundred Persons who were there religiously assembled, and who bore all patiently, as *Christian* Sufferers. These Things were acted on the Day they call'd their *Sabbath*, by a People who deem'd it a Profanation of that Day to travel five Miles to a Meeting, and whose Consciences could admit them to exercise such Barbarity on the Day in which they would have thought it a *Crime* to have been employed in any honest Labour.

NOTTING-
HAM-
SHIRE.
1659.

Pretended
Observers of
the Sabbath.

Abuse.

ANNO 1660. On the 2d of the Month called *April*, *Elizabeth Hooton*, passing quietly on the Road, was met by one *Jackson*, Priest of *Selston*, who abused her, beat her with many Blows, knockt her down, and afterward put her into the Water. About the same Time, *William Glasson* was imprisoned fourteen Weeks for saying, that *the Scriptures were a true Declaration of the Word of God, but not the Living Word of God it self*. So gross was the Ignorance and Superstition of those Times.

Imprison-
ment.

About the Month called *January* this Year, *Thomas Hurst, Thomas Hinley, Thomas Spanald, John Torr, Humphry Need, Mary Gamble, Robert Scrimshaw, Richard Bateman, John Storrs, George Cockran, Thomas Highfield, John Hurst, James Storrs, John Beeby, Richard Brown, Edward Poe, Samuel Hooton, John Leadbeater, Thomas Richardson, Robert Grace, Robert Marriott, Richard Brownly, James Stack, William Glossup, Thomas Crofts, Griffith Lewis, William Smith, Thomas Smith, Robert Carnall, Robert Shaw, Dorothy Kirkman, Anne Flower, Isabel Gregory, Elizabeth Wood, Grace Smith, and Anne Webster*, were at one Time Prisoners in the Town and County Goals of *Nottingham*, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance ; some of them having been taken at their religious Assemblies, others on the Highway, and some as they were going to visit their Brethren in Prison.

Many in Prison
for refusing to
swear.

In this Year also, *Roger Storrs, William Thorp* of *Gerton*, and *Robert Morfin* of *Worklop*, were Prisoners for refusing to pay Tithes.

Others for not
paying Tithes.

ANNO 1661. *Robert Scrimshaw, Thomas Aukland, Thomas Holywell, and John Leadbeater*, were taken from a Meeting at *Sarsfield* by Soldiers, who carried them before their Officers, with whom were two Justices, who tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing it, sent them to Prison, where they were lockt up every Night in the Pit among Felons. In the same Year, *John Weaver, Ralph Bateman, Richard Bateman, Thomas Jugall, Edward Aslin, and Richard Birkett*, were taken out of a Meeting at *Upton*, and committed to Prison.

4 Lockt up
among Felons.

Others impri-
soned.

ANNO 1663. In this Year, *Robert Shaw* was imprisoned in the Common-Goal of this County, for his conscientious Refusal to pay Tithes.

Tithes.

ANNO 1666. *John Hart* and *John Reckless* were committed to Prison on the 8th of the Month called *January*, by a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, after a Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical Court, for Absence from the National Worship.

Imprisonment
for Absence
from the pub-
lick Worship.

ANNO 1667. In *September*, *William Day*, of *Eastwood*, was committed to Prison for refusing to pay Tithes, at the Suit of *Thomas Hewitt*, Priest, and was continued Prisoner about fourteen Months.

Tithes.

ANNO 1669. At a Quarter Sessions, held at *Nottingham* in the Month called *January*, *Peniston Whaley*, Chairman, in his Charge to the *Grand Jury*, endeavoured to incense them against the *Quakers* by the following Speech, viz.

“ The Law they are prosecuted by is that in 35 Q. *Elizabeth*, which they pretend to be against *Papists*. [Clerk. Read the Preamble to that Act. Which being read, he proceeded] You may see that it was not made against them, for the Church of *Rome* is a true Church, as well as any other ; for a Man, though he be a lame or ill favour'd Man, yet he is a Man, as well as a Lord, or an Earl. And though the Church of *Rome* hath some Corruptions in it, yet it is a Church as well as any other, and so it could not be made against them ; therefore it must needs be made against these People : You ought therefore to put it in Force, and not pity them. I

Malicious
Speech of
P. Whaley.

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“suppose there was never Rogue hang’d for Robbing, but some Body pitied him. Indeed Sufferings do beget Pity.
“These *Quakers* are the most factious People, and hold the most erroneous Doctrine of any People. I’ll tell you of their *Principle, Doctrine, and Manners*. They do deny the holy Trinity, the three Persons, the Unity in the Godhead, Unity in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity: They deny the Merits of our Saviour *Christ*, and say that he died not for the whole World, and that he was no more than an Example of an holy Life, and therefore they preach Perfection, which is what none can ever come unto; for when we have done what we can, we are unprofitable Servants. They do deny Baptism and the Lord’s Supper: Baptism you know is the Covenant; and these are the two Breasts at which the Church of *England* doth nourish up her Children unto Life eternal: And though the Churches have differed in Matters of Exercise, yet they always agreed about the two Sacraments: In fundamental Points they did not differ. And undoubtedly, those that live and die in these Opinions, cannot but be damned: And who would beget a Child to go to the Devil. Therefore if you would have your Children enjoy that you leave them, suppress these People, and let the full Severity of the Law be exercised on them, and stricter than the Law, if it can be; for pitying them doth no Good, for they have had nine Years Clemency, and they are so spread, that if they spread so in as long Time more, we must beg: And a great Cause of this has been, that the Laws have not been executed. But if every Constable would complain if there were any Conventicles in their Town; and the great Fault doth lie in the Constables; and it’s under this Cover: For many Yeomen are so proud that they will not serve the Office of a Constable, but hire some base Fellow, and he is never sworn, but hath a Shilling for going to be sworn, but never goes, and that Shilling is clear Gain, and so they will not meddle with their Neighbours, though they meet: But we will take some Course to know that you are all sworn to do your Office: You shall either complain of Conventicles, or be forsworn; for they [Meetings] are the only Thing whereby Enterprizes are brought to pass, for if there were a Thousand People all of a Mind, if they did not meet, they could never know one another’s Minds by Letters, for that is dangerous; and at Fairs they could not, for those happen but seldom: And it is at these Meetings that they do preach one to another, and contemn the Laws, and rail against Men’s Persons. And if these Things be not avenged in our Time, they may well be in our Children’s Time, and they, an Hundred Years after may suffer by our Neglect. But ’tis very like that we in seven Years may feel the Effect of it.”

This Speech discovers the Author’s Ignorance of the *Quakers* Principles to be equal to his *Virulence* against them: Yet it seemed to have some Influence on the Proceedings of that Court; at which *John Wood*, for his Non-conformity to the Church of *England*, was fined two Hundred Marks, and upon his Refusal to pay that Fine, was committed to Prison.

For refusing
to Swear.

About the same Time *Edward Aslin*, being taken at a Meeting, had the Oath of Allegiance tendered him, and for not taking it was sent to the House of Correction.

Officious
Justices.

ANNO 1670. Of the Justices in this County, the aforesaid *Peniston Whaley* and *Robert Thoroton* were the most officious in enforcing the Act against Conventicles, and by the Warrants of them and others, many Distresses were made on those whom no Severities could deter from attending their Assemblies for religious Worship; for their Constancy in this Respect, were taken

		l.	s.	d.
Distresses for Meetings.	From <i>Richard Richardson</i> , of Nottingham, Goods worth	9	0	0
	<i>Charles Moreland</i>	12	0	0
	<i>Thomas Heighfield</i>	6	0	0
Carried over		27	0	0

		l.	s.	d.
	Brought over	27	0	0
From	John Marshall	10	0	0
	Edward Poe	1	3	4
	William Watson	0	9	0
	Joshua Oates	1	0	0
		39	12	4

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1670.

From Robert Carnell, of North-Cullingham, for a Meeting at his House, the Officers took Goods worth 30*l.* saying, they were ordered by the Justice to take three or four Times the Value, that they might afford to sell good Penny-worths.

From Robert Shaw they also took away Goods worth 30*l.* for a Meeting held at his House, though himself was at that Time a Prisoner many Miles from Home.

It happened that William Claytor, of Elton, and John Barker, of Bingham, were together at a Friends House, where were no others but the Family: One Chamberlain, an Informer, came in, and asked William some usual familiar Questions, to which he gave him proper Answers. The Informer goes to Justice Whaley, and tells him, *There was a Meeting, and that William Claytor spoke:* Upon which the Justice fined him 20*l.* for Preaching, and caused Distress to be made on his Goods, which amounted but to 15*l.* so they afterward seized some Sheep of his, to the Value of 4*l.* more. And from John Barker they also took Goods worth 12*l.*

Great Oppres-
sion by In-
formers and
Officers.

From Thomas Inghall, of Westborp, they took away his Corn, Hay, Carts, and Cattle, to the Value of 97*l.* The Quantities of his Corn and Hay were so great, that six or seven Persons were employ'd several Days together in carrying them away.

Nathanael Price, of Farnsfield, a poor fatherless Boy, whom his Friends in Charity had put out Apprentice, being taken at a Meeting, and having nothing else to discharge his Fine, the Officers took away his Coat and Breeches, four Half-pence, his Knife, Sheath, and Scissars, shewing no Compassion to an Orphan under such moving Circumstances.

At another Meeting William Claytor, and some others, being assembled, and sitting together in Silence, two Informers came in, and with them some of the Town Officers: One of the Informers said, *Take their Names.* W. Claytor ask'd, *What will you take our Names for?* The Informer replied, *For a silent Meeting.* Nay, said the other Informer, *put him down for a Speaker;* which they did accordingly, and he was fined by Justice Whaley for speaking or Preaching, though the Informer had spoken as much as he, and on the same Subject. So he was fined 40*l.* as on a second Conviction for Preaching, having been formerly convicted on a like Stratagem as before mentioned. Another Seizure was made of his Goods to the full Amount of that Fine, and when he would have appealed to the Sessions against such illegal Usage, his Appeal was rejected. A parallel Case to this was that of Joseph Wallis, who sitting silent in a Meeting, one Walker, an Informer, came in, and asked him, *When will you give over this?* Joseph answered, *When wilt thou give over thy Trade?* Walker return'd, *Not till you give over yours.* Joseph replied, *Thine will not bring thee Peace in thy latter End.* For this Joseph Wallis was fined 20*l.* as a Preacher, and, for that Fine, had a Stack of Hay taken from him by Distress.

For the same Cause of religiously Assembling to worship God, were taken

		l.	s.	d.
From	William Poole, at Lodge in the Wolds, Goods worth	3	0	0
	Rowland Dawbnell, of Corpwell	1	6	0
	Henry Doubleday, of Whatton	7	0	0
	Timothy Garland, of Mansfield	5	0	0
	Carried over	16	6	0

Many Dis-
tresses.

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			l.	s.	d.
	Brought over		16	6	0
From	Robert Moore, of Mansfield		4	2	0
	Robert Grace, of Sutton		6	8	0
	Richard Brandrith, of Sutton in Ashfield		5	15	0
	Samuel Hooton, George Cockran, and Mary Lead- beater, of Skekbie	}	8	9	0
	Edward Bingham, of Mansfield-Woodhouse		25	15	0
	John Theaker, of North-Cullingham		38	0	0
	Thomas Elson, Thomas Ridge, and William Raworth, of Gerton	}	23	18	0
	Joseph Watts, of Gresthorpe		24	0	0
	George Wheldale, of Headon		20	0	0
	Mary Snowden, Mary Theaker, Thomas Crane, Faith Sturgis, William Wilson, and Mary Watson	}	10	11	4
	William Calvert, of Carlton, and John Truswell, of Sutton upon Trent	}	1	17	0
	John Smith, Hugh Heale, Matthew Hortley, John Abbot, James Cock, and John Watson	}	6	13	6
	William Watson, of Farnsfield		19	0	0
	Margaret Dring, of Hollam		16	18	0
	Thomas Sansom, of Liverton		12	0	0
	Ralph Bateman		28	0	0
	John English, Edward Aslin, John Law, William Wilson, Alice Smith, Andrew Hodgson, Laurence Watts, and John Gudderith	}	12	0	4
	William Hudson, George Rogers, William Rogers, and Lydia Martin	}	1	16	0
			281	9	2

Diverse others also had their Goods taken by Distress for their religious Meetings, so that the Sums of the Whole, within this County, amounted in a short Time to 598*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*

Some Respite.

After this the Storm of Persecution, in this County, seemeth to have ceased for a considerable Time; so that we have no farther Accounts of Sufferings here, till

ANNO 1676. When it appeared, that the Quietness and Ease, for some Time enjoyed, was not owing to the favourable Disposition of the Justices, but rather to some Restraint put on them by those in higher Authority, which being again removed, they returned to their accustomed Severity, and caused many Distresses to be made on the Goods and Chattels of their harmless Neighbours for conscientiously resorting to their religious Assemblies; for on the 16th of the Month called April this Year, upon Information of a Meeting at Hucknall, the Parish-Officers came and took from John Bullivant, a Mare and other Goods, worth 3*l.* He was a poor Nailor, no House-keeper, but dwelt in his Shop: The Justice, Thoroton, judged him to be extremely poor; and therefore ordered the Officers to take all he had, the Coat from his Back, the Hat from his Head, and the Hammer which he work'd with. From Richard Bateman, another poor Man, they took most of the Goods he had, worth about 40*s.* but sold by them for 3*s.* 6*d.* They also took the Goods of William Clay, of 40*s.* Value, and sold them for 10*s.* being urged thereto by the Justice, who strictly charged them to sell the Goods for what they could get, though they sold 10*l.* worth for 30*s.* and because they did not sell the Goods within a limited Time, he fined the Constables 5*l.* each, and made Distress upon their Goods for the same. From Christopher Brandreth, the Officers took a Mare worth 4*l.* And from George Cockran, Goods worth 11*s.*

On

Many Dis-
tresses for
Meetings.

Severity of
Justice Tho-
roton.

On the 23d of the same Month, for a Meeting at the House of *Robert Grace*, of *Sutton*, they took from *Thomas Cockran*, two young Beasts worth 3*l*. And from *William Maulson*, a Cow and Household Goods, worth 5*l*. 4*s*.

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On the 28th of the Month called *May*, for a Meeting held in the Street at *Sutton*, was taken from *George Cockran*, a Cow worth 3*l*. 5*s*. 4*d*. From *John Fulwood*, eleven Quarters of Malt worth 10*l*. 9*s*. And from *George Hopkinson*, Goods worth 12*s*.

For a Meeting, held about the same Time, at the House of *Rowland Dabey*, they took from *Edward Richardson*, of *Kilverton*, a Blacksmith, not only his Hay and Corn, but also his Bedding, his Childrens Apparel, and even the working Tools and Utensils of his Trade, to the Value of 16*l*. And from *William Maultly*, *Robert Bullivant*, and *John Smith*, they took Goods to the Amount of 1*l*. 15*s*.

For a Meeting at the House of *William Wilson*, of *Gerton*, were taken from the said *William Wilson*, two Cows, the Property of a Neighbour, of whom he had borrowed them: But such irregular Seizures were countenanced by the Justices; for when the Officers came to distrain the Goods of *Thomas Fox* for being at the same Meeting, they found a Quantity of Timber which he had lately sold to one *Thomas Levesly*, and was actually in *Levesly's* Possession; all which was made appear to the Justice, and the Bill of Sale produced, nevertheless the Justice ordered it to be taken away from the present Possessor, and the Officers acted accordingly: The Value of that Timber was 6*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*. *Stephen Swinson* had also his Goods seized for being at the same Meeting, to the Value of 2*l*. 16*s*. but the Justices being informed that there was a Cow of his which the Constable had not taken, they fined the Constable 5*l*. for Neglect of Duty, and obliged him to pay 20*s*. to compound the Affair. From *Thomas Crane*, of *North-Scale*, they took Goods worth 5*l*.

Megal
Seizures.

For a Meeting at *Fransfield*, they took

	<i>l</i> .	<i>s</i> .	<i>d</i> .	
From <i>Ralph Bateman</i> and <i>John Bateman</i> , Sheep worth	33	0	0	} Severe Distresses.
<i>William Watson</i> , Household Goods, Corn and Cattle, worth	60	0	0	
<i>Andrew Hodson</i> , <i>Mary Handy</i> , <i>John Wood</i> , and <i>Stephen Moore</i> , Goods to the Value of	4	11	4	
	97	11	4	

For a Meeting at the House of *Edward Wood*, of *Ekrin*, Wheelwright, they took

	<i>l</i> .	<i>s</i> .	<i>d</i> .
From the said <i>Edward Wood</i> , six Cows, two Heifers, and Timber, worth	25	14	6
<i>John Camm</i> , of <i>Kirfall</i> , two Cows, an Horse, and a Mare, worth	10	5	0
<i>Richard Hind</i> , of <i>Welley</i> , two Cows and a Calf, worth	6	10	0
<i>Roger Noble</i> , of <i>Kirfall</i> , Pewter and Brass, worth	0	12	0
<i>Robert Bradshaw</i> , of <i>Oxen</i> , for a Meeting at his House, they took two Mares and four Beasts, worth	20	0	0
	63	1	6

On the 11th of the Month called *June*, for a Meeting held by the Highway-side, when they were forcibly kept out of their Meeting-house at *Knapthorp*, were taken from *Joseph Humpbry*, three Pewter Dishes worth 7*s*. And from *William Kent*, *Richard Hind*, and *James Hind*, Goods worth 1*l*. 2*s*.

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More Dis-
tresses.

On the 18th of the same Month, for Meetings at *Kneefal* on the Common, were taken

From <i>Edward Wood</i> , of <i>Ekrin</i> , Timber and Household-Goods, worth	10	10	0
<i>Thomas Oakland</i> , of <i>Knapthorp</i> , almost all his Goods, worth	5	0	0
<i>John Camm</i> , of <i>Kirfall</i> , Goods worth	3	0	0
<i>John Kent</i> , of <i>North-Layes</i> , eight young Beasts, worth	17	8	0
	35	10	0

On the 27th of the Month called *July*, the following Warrant was granted, viz.

“ To the Constables, Churchwardens, and Overseers, of the Poor
“ of *Wellow*, and every or any of them.

Warrant for
Distress.

“ **F**ORASMUCH as *James Hind* and *Richard Hind*, of the said Town,
“ are lawfully convicted before me, for having been present at a Con-
“ venticle or unlawful Assembly, on Pretence of Religion, otherwise than by
“ Law is established, in *Kneefal*, on Sunday the 25th of June last past. These
“ are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to require you to levy of each of the
“ Offenders ten Shillings a piece, being formerly convicted, by Distress and
“ Sale of Goods, which Sums you are to deliver to me to be distributed
“ according to Law. Hereof fail not, as you will answer the Contrary at your
“ Perils.

Given under my Hand and Seal the 27th Day of *July*, 28^o Car. 2.
Annoq; Dom. 1676.

“ **ROBERT THOROTON.**”

By this Warrant *James Hind* had his Bedclothes taken from him, worth but 13 s. And from *Richard Hind* they took away an Hog, worth about 10 s.

We shall next subjoin a Copy of a Warrant of Distress for a Meeting at *Mansfield*.

“ *Nots. ss.*

“ To the Constables, Churchwardens, and Overseers for the
“ Poor, and Thirdboroughs of *Sutton in Ashfield* and
“ *Hucknall*, and every or any of them.

Another
Warrant.

“ **F**ORASMUCH as *Robert Grace* and his Wife, *Elizabeth Brand-*
“ *rith*, *John Blackburne*, *Samuel Whitworth*, *Elizabeth Whitworth*, *Eliza-*
“ *beth Fello*, and *Sarah Clay*, *Richard Bateman*, *Joseph Roberts*, *Francis Clay*,
“ and *Margaret Whitworth*, of your said Towns, are lawfully convicted before
“ me, for having been present at a Conventicle or unlawful Assembly, on
“ Pretence of Religion, otherwise than by Law is established, in *Mansfield*,
“ on Sunday the 9th of this Instant *July*. These are therefore, in his Majesty's
“ Name, to require you to levy of the said *Robert Grace*, for his own Offence
“ and his said Wife's Offence, the Sum of one Pound, being formerly con-
“ victed; and the said *John Blackburne*, *Samuel Whitworth*, *Elizabeth Whitworth*,
“ and *Elizabeth Fello*, of every or each of them, the Sum of five Shillings
“ a piece; and of the said *Margaret Whitworth*, the Sum of five Shillings for
“ her own Offence, and the Sum of two Pounds by Reason of the Poverty of
“ *Richard Bateman*, *Joseph Roberts*, *Sarah Clay*, and *Francis Clay*, formerly
“ convicted, by Distress and Sale of Goods, which said Sums you are to
“ deliver

" deliver to me to be distributed according to Law. Hereof fail not as you
" will answer the Contrary at your Peril.

" Given under my Hand and Seal the 25th Day of July, 28th Car. 2.

" Anno Dom. 1676.

" ROBERT THOROTON."

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Pursuant to the foregoing Warrant, Distresses were made on the Goods of
several of the Persons therein mentioned.

Also for a Meeting at Sutton in Ashfield, were taken about the same Time,

	l.	s.	d.	
From William Day, a Mare, an Heifer, Pewter, Brass, and Bedding, worth	14	10	4	Distresses.
Thomas Farnsworth, of Scaftworth, five Cows, worth	14	0	0	
Robert Spald, five Cows worth	13	0	0	
Robert Nicholson, an Heifer worth	1	3	4	
Zachary Bower, a Cow worth	2	10	0	
George Greaves, four Cows worth	13	0	0	
John Wilson, a Mare worth	4	10	0	
Gervase Crease, Pewter worth	0	14	0	
John Torr, of Scrooby, four Oxen and an Heifer, worth	17	0	0	
William Kirkby, of Geatforth, seven Beasts worth	12	10	0	
	92	17	8	

For Meetings at the House of John Seaton, of Blythe, were taken

	l.	s.	d.
From the said John Seaton, all his Household Goods, Cattle, Horses, Swine, Carts, and other Utensils of Husbandry, with Wood, Stone, and Brick, worth	100	0	0
George Greaves, of Blythe, Hay, Corn, Beasts, Swine, Household Goods, and other Things, worth	36	0	0
* Henry Upton, of Harwood, two Oxen and three Cows, worth	14	0	0
William Kirkby, six Beasts, five Horses, and Household Goods, worth	25	0	0
Joseph Hudson, of Mattersea, five Cows, ten Swine, Corn, Hay, and Household Goods, to the Value of	12	10	0
John Birks, of Scaftworth, Horses and Cows, worth	18	0	0
Zachariah Bowers, Cows, Calves, Horses, Corn, Hay, Carts, Ploughs, and other Utensils, Bedding, Pewter, Brass, and other Goods, worth	51	8	10
Thomas Denton, two Calves and other Goods, worth	2	17	0
Thomas Farnsworth, of Scaftworth, Cattle, Horses, Corn, Hay, Carts, Ploughs, Harness, &c. four Beds, and other Household Goods, worth	40	11	0
Edward Hickson, of Tickhill, an Heifer worth	3	5	0
Carried over	303	11	10

* They took at another Time from Henry Upton, all the Residue of his Goods.

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	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	303	11	10
From <i>John Lambert</i> , of Tickbill, an Heifer worth	3	10	0
<i>Gervase Lambert</i> , Household Goods, Leather, working Tools, and Hay, to the Value of	8	0	0
<i>John Cornsall</i> , Corn, Beds, Bedding, &c. worth	10	0	0
<i>George Hopkins</i> , Goods worth	0	15	0
<i>William Emly</i> , of Mansfield, Goods worth	23	0	0
	348	16	10

Amount of
Distresses.

The Distresses made this Year, for the Cause of their religious Assemblies only, amounted to 712 l. 8 s. 4 d. many of which were exorbitant, and the Fines frequently laid and levied, upon flight, and sometimes false Informations: The Law did indeed admit the Sufferers to appeal to the Quarter Sessions, but the Justices, more tender of one another's Honour than of the Quakers Grievances, seldom gave them any Relief.

Partiality of
Justices on
Appeals.

One *John Sayton* was informed against, and fined 20 l. by Justice *Thoroton*, for being at a Meeting in the Parish of *Blythe*, at a Time when he was at the Distance of more than sixty Miles from thence: He appealed to the Quarter Sessions, and with much Difficulty obtained an Hearing of his Case: The Jury finding the Matter clear, brought in a Verdict for the Appellant; whereupon *Peniston Whaley*, one of the Justices, ordered them to go out again, but one of them answered, *We are agreed, and have well considered the Matter*: Whereupon the Justice in a Rage flung off the Bench, and said, *You deserve all to be hang'd*; adding, that *they were as bad as Highwaymen*; and said, *he hoped the King would take away Juries, for this, said he, will not do*. Thus *Sayton* was acquitted, and the Jury dismiss'd, to make Room for another more agreeable to the Purposes of the Court. Next Morning another Jury was impanelled, and another Appeal of the like Nature came on. The Case was that of *William Hudson*, whom the Evidence could not prove to have been at the Meeting he was charged with, and though eight of the Jury were pickt Men, known to be against the Appellant, yet the other four stood out, and no Verdict was agreed on till about eight at Night, when one of those four being taken ill, and needing Refreshment, Justice *Whaley* told them, *If they did not agree, they should be kept there till they died, and as one of them died, the Court would chuse another, till they were all dead*: They were over-awed into a Compliance, and after the Court was adjourn'd, privately gave in a Verdict against the Appellant. When one of the Jury said, *He would gladly do Equity*; Justice *Thoroton* replied, *You have nothing to do with Equity*.

Villany of
Informers
detected.

By such partial Proceedings of the Justices, Informers were encouraged, and took little Regard to their Assertions, seeing their most groundless Testimonies were accepted for incontestable Truth, and all Proceedings against them were so manifestly discountenanced. However, in one notorious Piece of Deceit they were detected: The Case was this: On the 26th of November 1676, certain Informers came to a Meeting at *Blythe*, and finding no Preacher there, resolved to make one. So they came out again, and consulted with their Associates; one of whom, *Edward Butterworth*, goes into the Meeting, and demurely seats himself there, till the Informers came again: Then *Butterworth* stood up, and said, *Blessed are the Peacemakers*, with some other Words; upon which, *Thomas Sharp*, one of the Informers, lays hold on him, pulled him out of the Meeting, and delivered him to the Constable, who carried this pretended Preacher before Justice *Sands*, where *Sharp* appeared to make Information against him. But the Justice, observing the Fellow's Behaviour, suspected him, and examined him, *Where he lived*? He answered, *At Broughton, eight Miles from Lincoln*. The Justice ordered him to be brought again next Day, when Sir *Ralph Knight* being also present, they again examined him, and he still asserted that he lived at *Broughton*: *Sharp*, the Informer, being also examined upon

upon Oath, affirmed, that he never saw the Man before in all his Life. But between these two Examinations, the following Certificate had been procured, and was produced before the Justices, viz.

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"THIS may certify whom it may concern, that we whose Names are under-written do testify, that *Edward Butterworth* and *Thomas Sharp*, of our Town of *Newark*, are very well acquainted and near Neighbours, living together in our Town, and both in a Street; most of our Town well know it.

Certificate.

"JOHN MILNER,

"THOMAS MERRYWEATHER."

Upon this the Justices ordered *Butterworth* to find Sureties for his Appearance at Sessions, or else to be sent to *Nottingham Goal*, but as the Constable was conveying him thither, he made his Escape. About three Days after, he came to the Justices, and two of the Informers with him, who were bound for his Appearance at Sessions. But we do not find any farther Proceeding in this Affair; for though the Deception was clearly discovered, and the Perjury of *Sharp* the Informer, made manifest, yet the Justices let the Affair drop; for they were too favourable to such gross Offenders; as on the Contrary, when some Parish-Officers, either out of Compassion to the Poor, or Unwillingness to prejudice their Neighbours, were remiss in executing Warrants, the Justices were very severe, as in the Case of one *Cressie*, a Constable of *Blythe*, whom they fined 5*l* for omitting to execute a Warrant of Distress; and for that Fine he had taken from him, two Cows and other Goods, worth 9*l*. 4*s*. 1*d*.

Thomas Farnsworth, *John Birks*, and *Zachariah Bowers*, for refusing to Swear, when summoned to serve on a Jury at a Court-Leet, were fined, and had their Goods taken away by Distress for the said Fines.

Fines levied.

We find not many Instances of Persecution in this County after the Year 1676, except that many Land-Owners, and Occupiers, had their Corn taken out of the Fields for Tithes; of which the Priests, and others, took large Quantities: The Value of the Tithes, so taken, with the Persons Names from whom they were taken, between 1686 and 1690, of which we have an Account, were as follows, viz.

	l.	s.	d.	
At BLYTHE, from <i>John Seaton</i> , <i>George Greaves</i> , <i>John Wilson</i> , <i>Thomas Buck</i> , <i>Charles Hopkinson</i> , <i>Joseph Shipporah</i> , and <i>John Bullivant</i>	28	14	5	} Accounts of Tithes in kind.
At EVERTON, from <i>John Camfoll</i> and <i>Gervase Lambert</i>	2	19	4	
At CLARBROUGH, from <i>John Richardson</i> , <i>John Gunthorp</i> , <i>Joseph Turnbill</i> , and <i>William Hudson</i>	15	0	6	}
At SCAFTFORTH, from <i>Robert Spavold</i> and <i>John Jephson</i>	9	19	0	
At WILLOUGHBY, from <i>James Camm</i> and <i>George Camm</i>	8	0	8	
At LANHAM, from <i>Gervase Harrison</i>	17	10	11	
At SOUTH-LEVERTON, from <i>Thomas Sampson</i>	17	3	10	
At KNEESAL, from <i>John Machon</i>	7	7	6	
At MAPLEBECK, from <i>John Camm</i>	9	7	0	
At KIRSALL, from <i>Solomon Johnson</i> and <i>Roger Noble</i>	3	4	3	
At SUTTON, from <i>John Trafewell</i> , <i>Hugh Heald</i> , and <i>Richard Tacy</i>	24	19	0	}
At GRASSTHORP, from <i>Jane Smith</i>	4	11	0	
At SCROOBY, from <i>John Torr</i> and <i>Robert Jephson</i>	12	8	0	
At TICKHILL, from <i>Anne Lambert</i>	4	7	6	
At HARWORTH, from <i>George Greaves</i>	5	10	0	
At NORTH-CULLINGHAM, from <i>Robert Carnell</i>	1	6	8	
At HUCKNALL, from <i>John Longford</i>	0	10	0	

NOTTING-
HAM-
SHIRE,
1686 to
1690.

	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	172	19	7
At SUTTON in ASHFIELD, from <i>Nathanael Clay</i>	1	6	8
At SKEKBIE, from <i>William Mason</i>	1	16	8
At OXTON, from <i>Francis Scotborn</i>	0	8	6
At FARNSFIELD, from <i>Anthony Smith</i>	0	10	0
At EPERSTON, from <i>Richard Roe</i>	2	12	10
	179	14	3

Distress and
Imprisonment
of G. Harri-
son.

In the Year 1689, *Gervase Harrison*, of *Lanham*, was prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for small Tithes and *Easter-Offerings*, at the Suit of *Richard Bradley*, Vicar of that Parish: The Parson's pretended Claim was only for Trifles, viz. For three Communicants 6d. for six Calves 2s. 2d. for twenty five Lambs 6s. 3d. for Wool of thirty six Sheep 6s. for one Chicken 2d. for Eggs at *Easter* 4d. for Hemp and Growth 3d. For not appearing to answer to these Demands, which were rather fictitious than real, the poor Man was denounced *Contumacious*; and upon Certificate thereof to two Justices, they granted a Warrant, by which he was committed to *Nottingham Goal*, where he lay nine Weeks, two of which he was kept in the Dungeon.

C H A P. XXIX.

OXFORD-
SHIRE.

OXFORDSHIRE.

Opposition of
formal Pro-
fessors to the
Doctrine of
the Gospel.

THE Doctrine of the Gospel, and those who, from a lively Experience of its Virtue in their own Conversion, are under a necessary Impulse of *Christian Love*, constraining them to publish it unto others, ever met with violent Opposition from formal Professors, assuming to themselves, in an unconverted State, the Title of Christ's Ministers, and attempting, for filthy Lucre's Sake, to intrude themselves into an Office his Spirit has not qualified them to discharge.—Hence proceeded the evil Treatment which the People called *Quakers*, at their first Appearance, underwent from the Students at *Oxford*; whither,

Persecution
of two reli-
gious Women.

ANNO 1654. In the Month called *June*, *Elizabeth Heavens* and *Elizabeth Fletcher*, two North-Country Women, came under a religious Concern to exhort the Inhabitants of that Place, and the Scholars in their Colleges, to Repentance and Amendment of Life. Their Labour of Love was rejected by the Scholars, and their *Christian Advice* met with inhuman Returns of Despight, and Cruelty. The Students, hating Reproof, fell to abusing the innocent Women, and drove them by Force to the Pump in *John's College*, where they pump'd Water upon their Necks, and into their Mouths, till they were almost dead: After which they tied them Arm to Arm, and inhumanly dragged them up and down the College, and through a Pool of Water, and threw *Elizabeth Fletcher*, a young Woman, over a Grave-stone into a Grave, whereby she received a Contusion on her Side, from which she never recovered, but died not long after. A few Days after this, the same Women went to one of the Places of publick Worship, and after the Priest had done, one of them began to exhort the People to the Practice of Godliness: But two Justices of the Peace, who were present, ordered them immediately to be sent to *Bocardo*, a Prison so called, where they use to put Felons and Murderers. Next Day those Justices sent a Message to the Mayor, desiring him to meet them and others

Students
Barbarity.

Imprisonment
of the Women.

others to examine these *Quakers*: The Mayor answered, *Let those who committed them deal with them according to Law, if they have transgressed; for my Part I have nothing against them: If they want Food, Money, or Clothes, I will supply them.* However, when the Justices were met, the Mayor went also, and the Vice-Chancellor was sent for, who readily came. The Women being called; and asked their Names, and Places of Abode, made proper Answers. Then being ask'd, *What was their Business at Oxford?* They replied, that *They were commanded of the Lord to come thither.* Being asked, *What they came to do?* They answered, *To declare against Sin and Ungodliness, as Pride, Covetousness, Lust, and all Manner of Self-Righteousness, and false Worship, which both Priests and People lived in, contrary to the Commands of God.* Then being ask'd, *How they knew they were called of God?* They replied, *They knew the Voice of God, and that they were called of him.* Then the Vice-Chancellor, who was the chief Actor against them, charged them, that *they blasphemed the Name of God, and did abuse the Spirit of God, and dishonour the Grace of Christ;* and then ask'd them, *Whether they read the Scriptures?* They said, *They did.* Then he ask'd them, *Whether they were not obedient to the Power of the Magistrate?* They answered, *They were obedient to the Power of God, and to the Power, as it was of God, their Souls were subject for Conscience-sake.* Well, said the Vice-Chancellor, *you profane the Word of God, and I fear you know not God, though you talk so much of him.* Then the Women were ordered to withdraw, while the Magistrates consulted together. At length, their Sentence was drawn up in Writing, which was, *That they should be Whipt out of the City.* Now it was the Custom there, before any such Sentence or Corporal Punishment was executed, that the Mayor did sign and put the Seal of his Office to the Order; which in this Case he refused to do, because he could not in Conscience consent to a Sentence he thought undeserved. But so eager were the Vice-Chancellor, and some others, that they told him, *If he would not sign their Sentence, they would execute it without him.* And so they did, and gave Orders that the poor Women should be severely whipt next Morning, which was accordingly done, though the Conscience of their Innocence did so move the Heart, even of the Executioner, that he performed his Office with a manifest Reluctancy. But their Persecutors would be obeyed, and had their Order executed with Severity. The Women endured their grievous Sufferings with Christian Patience, in no wise murmuring or Complaining, so that their meek and patient Behaviour was very affecting to many of the sober Inhabitants, who observing the Innocence of their Testimony, attended with such surprizing Demonstrations of the Patience of Saints, acknowledged them as Servants of the Living God, and in much Love and Tenderness accompanied them out of the City.

For bearing the like Christian Testimony, against Vice and Superstition, publickly in the Assemblies and Places of Concourse at Oxford, *Jeremy Hayward, John Shackerly, Thomas Loe, Mary Loe, and William Simpson,* also suffered Imprisonment there, and the latter of them was sent away with a Pass.

At another Time *Jeremy Hayward, and Laurence Willier,* for speaking to the Vice-Chancellor in the Street, probably in Reproof of his persecuting Disposition, were committed to the County Goal. Laurence was released again within a few Days, but the other continued there thirty three Weeks.

In this Year also, *Anne Aukland,* declaring against false Worship at Banbury, was sent to Prison, under a Charge of Blasphemy; but upon Trial at Sessions, was cleared of that Accusation: Yet the Jury brought her in Guilty of a Misdemeanour, in calling the Minister a false Prophet. A Reflection, never more offensive, than where most deserved. *Thomas Cole,* for going to hear her Trial, and standing in Court with his Hat on, was fined 5*l.* and sent to Prison.

ANNO 1655. For the like pious Zeal, and religious Declarations of the Truth at the publick Assemblies in Banbury, were imprisoned, *William Simpson, Thomas Marshall, Nathanael Ball, and Nathanael Weston,* who was confined eleven Months, and afterwards had his Goods taken away to the Value of 5*l.* for about a Mark demanded by the Goaler for his Fees.

OXFORD.
SHIRE.
1654.

Their Examination.

Sentence to be whipt.

Execution of the Sentence.

Patience of the Sufferers.

Others imprisoned for their Testimony.

Imprisonment at Banbury.

OXFORD-
SHIRE.
1655.

Imprison-
ments.

Sarah Timms, in the Grave-Yard at *Banbury*, exhorted the Priest to fear the Lord : For which *Christian* Exhortation, some of her Hearers knockt her down, and struck her violently. The Mayor and Magistrates, who were present, instead of restraining them from offering such illegal Abuses, sent the innocent Woman to Prison, where she lay half a Year. Also *Jane Waugh*, for bearing her Testimony to the Truth, and against Deceit, in the Market-place at *Banbury*, was imprisoned five Weeks : As were *Mary Coats* and *Mary Lamprey*, for reprovng the Vices of the Mayor and Magistrates there ; the former was released the same Night, but the other detained eighteen Days.

John Shackerly, for speaking to a Priest, at *Oxford*, some displeasing Words, was by his Means sent to the City Prison, and there detained seven Weeks. And at another Time, for the like Offence against the Vice-Chancellor, he was imprisoned twenty eight Weeks.

ANNO 1656. *Hester Biddle*, of *London*, was imprisoned at *Banbury* for some zealous Reprehension uttered against the Mayor and Magistrates there.

Prosecutors
moved to
Compassion.

ANNO 1657. In this Year *Alexander Harris* was imprisoned for Tithes, on two Actions ; one at the Suit of a Priest, the other of an Impropiator : After three Years and an Half Imprisonment, he was taken sick, and his Case being represented to his Prosecutors, they had Compassion on him, and having made sufficient Proof of the Man's Sincerity, were not willing he should die under Confinement at their Suit, and therefore freely and generously discharged him. But their Deputy afterward took the Corn off his Ground for the Tithe, Annually, in what Quantities they pleased.

More Prose-
cutions for
Tithes.

About the Middle of the Month called *February* this Year, *William Cole*, of *Charlbury*, prosecuted in the *Exchequer* for Tithes, was sent to Prison for refusing to give in his Answer upon Oath. Being there, he was charged also with an Action for Tithes, by an Impropiator ; at whose Suit he was detained in Prison till he died, a faithful Witness against the Antichristian Oppression of Tithes. The same Impropiator took from him also, while in Prison, Goods worth 20*l.* for 5*l.* demanded.

Thomas French, of *Upper-Norton*, was also imprisoned at the Suit of *William Thomas*, a Lawyer, and Renter of Tithes ; and for a Demand of but 11*s.* for Tithes, suffered two and forty Months Imprisonment.

ANNO 1658. In this Year, *Richard Kite* of *Upper-Norton*, *Margaret Freebody* of *King's Hutton*, *Richard Betteris*, and *Hannah Alcock*, were at several Times imprisoned for their *Christian* and religious Exhortations and Reproofs, given to the Priests and People on various Occasions : For which Cause also, *Bathia Haslewood*, of *Borton*, was stoned, and othwise evilly treated by the Populace at *Cropfody*, the Priest looking on, and laughing at the Wickedness of his Hearers.

Pride of some
Magistrates
a Cause of
suffering.

There were, in these Times, some Men advanced to the Office of Magistrates, so extremely fond of Personal Homage, as to prosecute and imprison Men for the Omission of that, which no Law required : Hence it was that *Simon Thompson* and *Nathanael Knowles*, meeting *William Fines*, otherwise called Lord Say, and not paying him the customary Ceremony of the Hat, were by him sent to *Oxford Goal*, and detained two Months. At the next Sessions, he caused them to be sent to the House of Correction, and detained there near eight Months, the said *Nathanael Knowles* being several Times cruelly whipt, and otherwise ill used. Likewise *Ellis Hookes*, going to visit his Mother, then residing at the House of Sir *William Waller* at *Stanton-Harcourt*, because he did not pay the Knight and his Lady the Hat-honour, and customary Compliments, was by them, and their Servants, beaten and abused : And by their Influence, his own Father was so incensed against him, that he turned him out of Doors.

It so happened about this Time, that *Richard Farnsworth*, walking with one of his Friends up *Banbury-Street*, met the Mayor, and a Justice of the Peace named *William Allen* : The Justice looking very angrily upon *Richard*, struck off his Hat ; by which he discovered his own Pride and Wrath, and how little

little he merited the Homage he looked for. After this the Mayor and Justice sent for *Richard*, and committed him to Prison. Next Day, when their Pride and Passion were a little abated, they sent for him, and told him, *If he would pay the Goaler's Fees, and promise to go out of Town that Night, he should have his Liberty.* But he would promise nothing; knowing that they had committed him illegally. Wherefore to cover their unlawful Procedure, they tendered him the Oath of Abjuration, which his Refusing to take furnished them with a Pretext for his Recommitment to Prison, where he lay about six Months. In like Manner *Jane Waugh*, after five Weeks illegal Confinement, was recommitted by an Order of Sessions, for refusing to take the Oath of Abjuration.

OXFORD-SHIRE.
1658.

Tender of
the Oath.

About the same Time *James Wagstaff*, of *Banbury*, was fined 40*s.* by the Mayor for refusing to Swear, and his Goods were taken away by Distress for that Fine.

In this Year also, *William Potter*, of *Tadmorton*, had his Horse taken from him for riding to a Meeting on the First-day of the Week, for a pretended Fine of 10*s.* for Sabbath-breaking. After Half a Year's keeping, they sold the Horse for 3*l.* and returned nothing to the Owner. In like Manner the Son and Daughter of *William Burroughs*, of *Geydon* in *Warwickshire*, going to *Banbury* Meeting, had two Horses taken from them worth 12*l.* which were sold about Half a Year after, and nothing returned to the Owners. Also *Thomas Palmer* and *Richard Mills*, coming to a Meeting at the same Place, had two Mares taken from them worth 5*l.* Likewise *William Potter* and *Simon Thompson*, for being at a Meeting in *Broughton*, were by the Lord Say committed to *Oxford* Goal, and there detained twenty five Weeks. So furious a Zealot against the *Quakers* was this Lord Say, that for no other Cause than their being such, he arbitrarily and illegally forced the said *Simon Thompson* and *John Parsons*, two of his Tenants, out of their Houses, had their Goods thrown into the Street, and obliged them, their Wives, and seven Children, to lie in the Streets three Weeks in a cold wet Season; and their Goods were much damnified.

Distresses for
Meetings.

Persecuting
Disposition
of the Lord
Say.

Christopher Birkhead of *Bristol*, and *George Baily* of *London*, going to visit their Friends in *Banbury* Goal, were for their Christian Charity, by the Mayor's Order there detained; the Former three Days, and the Latter several Weeks.

Visitors of
Prisoners
imprisoned.

We shall close our Account of this Year by extracting certain Passages out of a printed Relation subscribed by *Jeremiah Hayward*, *Abraham Allen*, *Thomas Ryland*, *Henry Train*, *Laurence Willier*, *Thomas Swan*, *Alexander Green*, and *Abraham Badger*, Eye-Witnesses, and Partakers of the barbarous Treatment which the *Quakers*, at their Meetings in *Oxford*, usually met with from the Students there.

“ They came into a Meeting, and drew a Friend out by the Hair
“ of the Head; the Proctor himself pulled *John Shackerly* by the Hair, and
“ out of Doors, from *Richard Betteris's* House, and violently thrust out others:
“ And several Times the Scholars have thrown Stones and Dirt at Friends,
“ and broke the Door to pieces, and broke the Windows several Times, and
“ took away the Key of the Door, and knock'd Tenter-hooks into the Key-
“ hole, and pull'd up Part of the Porch.—And when Friends have been
“ coming into the Meeting, or going forth, the Scholars have squeez'd them
“ in the Passage of the Door, that some have been hurt: And came into
“ the Meeting, and turn'd up the Forms and Seats which Friends sat on,
“ and rid upon the Backs both of Men and Women, like wild Horses: And
“ this is the Fruits of the Scholars, who are called *young Ministers* in *Oxford*,
“ against the People of God, daily disturbing their Meetings, like wild Savages,
“ and brought Gunpowder and Squibs, and fired them, and set the Room on
“ a Smoak, and blown among People under their Clothes, like to set the
“ House on Fire, and to undo People; and have shot Bullets among Friends
“ to knock out their Eyes.—Stamping wildly and rudely like Tavern-
“ Fellows, crying, *Give us Beer and Tobacco.*—And the Scholars have
“ come into the Meetings among the People of God, and call'd for Wenches

Narrative of
the Cruelty of
Oxford Stu-
dents.

OXFORD
SHIRE.
1658.

“ or Harlots, like Fellows that haunt Bawdy-houses. — And have brought
“ Strong-Beer into the Meetings, and drank to Friends, and because they have
“ refused to drink, have thrown it on their Necks, and Clothes, and Bands.
“ — And sung Bawdy-Songs, and curs'd and swore. — And several
“ Times came into the Meetings, blowing and puffing with Tobacco-Pipes in
“ their Mouths, cursing, swearing, and stamping, making the House shake
“ again. — And proffer'd to put their Hands under Women's Aprons, and
“ ask'd, *If the Spirit were not there?* — And the Scholars have come into
“ the Meeting to act *Tobit* and his Dog, and one of them divided his filthy
“ Stuff into Uses and Points, after the Manner of the Priests, and another
“ rais'd Doctrines of a Tinker and a Gobler, and many more wicked Actions
“ by Mockings, and Scoffings, and filthy Language. — And these Scholars
“ have been so shameless, that after Meeting they have pressed in by Violence,
“ and took Meat off from the Table, came into the House of the Friend where
“ the Meeting was, and took the Bread, and the Pottage out of the Pot,
“ like greedy Dogs, lapping them up, and have stolen and taken away the
“ Books out of the House, and carried them away. — One of the Servants
“ of the Lord going from a Meeting to his own Dwelling, and going by
“ *John's* College, a great Company of Scholars drew him into the College,
“ forc'd him up into their Hall, and by main Strength, and much Violence,
“ thrust him into a Chair, and then used abominable and wicked Words, to
“ have drawn the Friend's Mind out of the Fear of the Lord; but when they
“ could not prevail, they brought Beer, and like flobbering Beasts and Swine,
“ proffered to pour it down his Neck, and struck and beat him with many
“ grievous Blows, and pinch'd him, insomuch as he was amazed, and his
“ natural Sense taken away for a Time with their Cruelty; and this Man,
“ about that Time, had not eaten a Bit of Bread in ten Days Time, being
“ very weak; and they thrust Pins into his Flesh, and pinched him, and kept
“ him in there with many wicked Scoffs, asking him, *Whether the Spirit did*
“ *not move him now?* —

I am weary of transcribing their Abominations, and shall cease with this Remark, which how severe soever it may seem, is natural and just, *viz. Had those Scholars been professedly educated there for Ministers of the Devil, they could not have given more certain Proofs of their Proficiency.*

Imprisonment
for Tithes.

ANNO 1659. *Benjamin Staples*, of *Chadlington*, was subpoena'd into the *Exchequer* for Tithes, and for refusing to swear to his Answer there, was imprisoned forty Weeks. *Thomas Taylor*, of *Norley*, for refusing to pay Tithes to the Priest, was committed to Prison by Order of the Committee of Safety, who, it seems, lookt upon the Refusal to pay Tithes as a Mark of Disaffection to the Government. *Timothy Poultney*, of *Adderbury*, for 4*l.* demanded for Tithes, was imprisoned at *Oxford* fifteen Months: Also *Edward Boucher*, of *Milcomb*, suffered Imprisonment there for the same Cause.

About this Time *Edward Vivers*, *Nathanael Lamprey*, *James Wagstaff*, *George Tomkins*, and *Benjamin Staples*, suffered Distress of their Goods for refusing to pay the Assessments made on them for repairing the National Worship-houses.

Excommuni-
cations and
Imprison-
ments.

ANNO 1660. In this Year *Edward Vivers*, *James Wagstaff*, *Nathanael Lamprey*, *Henry Phillips*, *John Gulliver*, *Richard Mecock*, and *Edward Shepherd*, were excommunicated for not paying toward the Repairs of the Steeple-house at *Banbury*. And for a like Cause, *Giles Tidmarsh*, of *Chipping-Norton*, was sent to Goal on a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo*, and remained Prisoner above seven Years. Also *Edward Lord*, of *Milton*, for refusing to pay toward Repairing the Steeple-house at *Shipton*, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 40*s.*

Thomas Gilping, of *Warborough*, was detained seven Weeks in Custody of the Marshal at *Oxford*, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance: Which Oath was tendred at the Quarter Sessions in *Oxford*, on the 2d of October, to
Thomas

Thomas Goodyear and Benjamin Staple, and for refusing to take it, Sentence of Premunire was past upon them in these Words, viz. You are out of the King's Protection, and all your Lands, Goods, and Chattels are forfeited, and to be seized for the Use of the King, and you are to remain in Prison during the King's Pleasure. Thomas Goodyear, who was brought to the Bar with Irons on, asking of the Court, Whether the Goaler had Orders from them so to use him? was thus answered, The Goaler may do what he will with you, for you are out of the King's Protection. Being returned to Prison, the wicked Keeper told the other Prisoners, that If they wanted Clobes, they might take theirs off their Backs, for, said he, they can have no Law against you. To which one of the Prisoners answered, that He would go naked rather than do so.

OXFORD SHIRE, 1660.

Sentence of Premunire.

In the Month called January this Year, Edward Vivers, John Long, James Wagstaff, Nathanael Lamprey, John Gulliver, and Richard Mecock, were sent for before the Justices sitting at Banbury, and upon their refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, committed to Oxford Goal.

For refusing to Swear.

On the 11th of the same Month, the following Persons were apprehended at a Meeting at Banbury, by the Mayor's Order, who, because they would not take the Oath of Allegiance, committed them to Prison there, viz. William Potter, John Plummer, George Tomkins, Thomas Cole, William Hodges, Thomas Baylis, Richard Hibornes, Nathanael Ball, Thomas Shelswell, Edward Butcher, Thomas Clifford, Thomas Hodges, Jonathan Ball, Leonard Hall, John Smith, John Alcock, Isaac Green, Robert Knight, William Evans, William Reeves, Thomas Claridge, John Parsons, John Smith jun. Edward Times, Simon Thompson, Christopher Barrett, Nathanael Knowles, Thomas Spiers, and Benjamin Wright.

29 Imprisoned for refusing to Swear.

On the 13th, the Meetings at Milton and Brighthorton were broken up by a Justice of the Peace, and the Persons under-named were carried to Burford, where the Oath of Allegiance was tendred them, and for refusing to take it, they were sent to Oxford Goal, namely, Thomas Loe, George Hancock, John Willett, Richard Dalby, William Edwards, Thomas Harris, Michael Sessions, John Jefferson, Thomas Minchin, Thomas Greenaway, John Harris, James Sessions, William Pettifer, John Affon, John Hill, Robert Seacoal, Robert Willett, Jacob Gibbs, Francis Dring, John Butler, and William Hill: Four of them, viz. Robert Seacoal, Michael Sessions, James Sessions, and Robert Willett, had Goods taken from them to the Value of 1 l. 3 s. 4 d. for the Charges of carrying them to Goal. All of them were detained in Prison about seven Weeks, till the Sessions, and then discharged, except Thomas Loe, to whom the Justices again tendred the Oath in Court, and recommitted him.

More Imprisonments for not Swearing.

On the 15th of the Month called January, Benjamin Ward, for refusing to pay Tithes to the Priest of Tadmarton, was committed to Oxford Goal, and continued there fifteen Months.

In the same Year, Michael Sessions, for 4 s. demanded of him for Tithes, had his Goods taken away, to the Value of 2 l. 5 s.

ANNO 1661. Bray Doyley, of Adderbury, was prosecuted in the Hundred Court for a Claim of 13 s. for Tithe: He demurred to the Jurisdiction of the Court, as having no Right to take Cognizance of Tithes: This he produced some Statutes to prove, which the Jury desiring to inspect, were forbidden by the Court, who arbitrarily ordered them to go out and find for the Plaintiff. They accordingly found 13 s. Debt, and Costs of Suit: Whereupon the Court ordered them to go out again and find treble Damages, which they would not do: Nevertheless the Court proceeded to give Judgment as it they had so done; and ordered Distress accordingly, by which a Cow was taken from him worth 3 l. 10 s. He had at another Time two Cows taken from him worth 7 l. on Pretence of an Outlawry against him for Tithes.

Prosecution in the Hundred Court, &c.

In the same Year, Benjamin Staples, for 2 l. 1 s. demanded of him for Tithes, had Cattle taken from him worth 5 l. 5 s.

On the 6th of October this Year, a Party of Soldiers went into a Meeting at Banbury, and barbarously abused the Assembly, beating and bruising many of

Cruelty of Soldiers.

OXFORD-
SHIRE.
1662.

For Tithes.

Remarkable
Case of Ex-
communica-
tion.

of them, and wounding one in the Breast with a Sword, dragging them by Violence out of the House, and when out, continuing to beat and abuse them.

ANNO 1662. *George Tomkins*, for a Claim of 2 *l.* 3 *s.* 4 *d.* for Tithes, had Goods taken from him to the Value of 5 *l.* 5 *s.* And *Benjamin Staples*, for Tithes of 2 *l.* 13 *s.* Value, had his Goods taken away worth 7 *l.* 10 *s.* He was also imprisoned eleven Weeks for refusing to pay Tithes.

Francis Dring, of *Brisnorton*, was summoned to the Ecclesiastical Court for Absence from the publick Worship; and at his first Appearing there, was excommunicated. The Excommunication was sent to his own Father, being Vicar of the Parish, to read; which he would gladly have declined, but through Fear of the Bishop, did read it; though the Sense of his Son's Innocence, and the Injustice of the Sentence, struck such a Damp upon the poor Man's Spirits, that his Countenance was observed to change while he was reading it, and a Fit of Sickness immediately seized him, so that he never came into the Pulpit more, but died soon after. About the same Time, *Richard Wright*, of *Henly*, was excommunicated for not sprinkling his Children, and committed to Oxford Goal by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, where he was kept Prisoner above six Years and an Half.

In this Year also, for Absence from the publick Worship, were taken

Distresses.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>Francis Dring, William Wise, John Waller, Thomas Munch, Anne Watts, and Mary Wheeler</i> , Goods worth	3	5	0
<i>Giles Tidmarsh, John Butler, Richard Kite, Thomas Tidmarsh, Walter Coleman, and Edward Drinkwater</i>	1	19	6

Thomas Reeves and *John Evans*, of *Great-Tue*, were taken from a Meeting at *Milcomb*, and committed to Oxford Goal, and after six Weeks Imprisonment were fined at the Sessions 5 *l.* each, for which *Reeves* had Goods taken from him worth 7 *l.* and *Evans* two Cows worth 6 *l.*

Distresses for Meetings.

The several Persons following were fined for being at Meetings at *Milcomb* and *Banbury*; their Fines amounted to 56 *l.* for which several of them had their Goods taken by Distress, viz. *Edward Vivers, Bray Doyley, Thomas Hibornes, John Long, Henry Philips, Thomas Butcher, Jonathan Churchill, Christopher Barret, Timothy Poultney, George Tomkins, Edward Butcher, Nathanael Ball, Thomas Cole, and George Aston.*

Imprisonments for refusing to Swear.

In the same Year, *Edward Vivers, James Wagstaff, Henry Phillips, and Jonathan Churchill*, were taken out of a Meeting, at *Banbury*, and committed to Prison for refusing the Oath of Allegiance: As were also *Laurence Willier, Jeremy Hayward, John Shackerly, Abraham Badger, Alexander Green, Edward Harman, and Silas Norton*, who were taken out of Meetings at Oxford. Also *Jane Waugh* and *Thomas French* were taken from a Meeting at *Banbury*, and committed to Prison.

Indictments at Sessions.

At the Sessions at Oxford, in October this Year, *Robert Seacoal, George Hancock, Michael Sessions, James Sessions, Robert Willett, John Harris, Thomas Minchin, Francis Dring, Richard Kite, Giles Tidmarsh, William Kite, and Mary Ryton*, were indicted for being at an unlawful Assembly, and fined 5 *l.* each, for which Fines were taken by Distress,

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>Robert Seacoal</i> , Goods worth	8	0	0
<i>Michael and James Sessions</i>	* 7	4	0
<i>Thomas Minchin, George Hancock, and Francis Dring</i>	11	16	0

The

* Part of this was Corn, Wood, and other Things carried away in Carts. It was observed that the Horses, used on that Occasion, died soon after: So that the Owner of them had not one left to carry in his own Corn in Harvest.

The said *Robert Willett*, beside his Fine, was also sent to Prison, where he died not long after. Also *John Willett*, taken at the same Meeting, was imprisoned in *Oxford Goal* fourteen Weeks, and then by Order of Sessions, sent to *Bridewell* for one Month. Likewise *Richard Clinton*, of *Woosum-Mill*, taken at the same Time, and imprisoned, fell sick in Prison, and died soon after his Release from thence. *William Pettifer* was also sent to Prison from the same Meeting, and at the Assizes in the next Year, had Sentence of *Premunire* pass'd upon him by Judge *Hide*, and was detained Prisoner about ten Years.

OXFORD-SHIRE.
1662.

Death of
R. Willett.

Premunire.

At the same Sessions *Alexander Harris*, *Benjamin Staples*, *Thomas Larner*, and *James Weaver*, were fined: And for those Fines, Goods were taken from *Alexander Harris*, worth 7 l. 10 s. and from *Benjamin Staples*, to the Value of 5 l.

Fines.

At that Sessions also, *Thomas Nichols* and *Jeremy Hayward*, coming into the Court to hear the Trials of their Friends, had the Oath of Allegiance tendred them, and for refusing to take it, were sent to Prison.

About the same Time, *Abraham Allen*, *Robert Middleton*, *Jeffery Bennett*, *John Betteris*, *Silas Norton*, *Alexander Green*, and *Thomas Upton*, were taken out of a Meeting at *Burford*, and committed to Prison. Also *Richard Betteris* was taken out of a Meeting held in his own House, and by a verbal Command of Dr. *Bayley*, Vice-Chancellor of *Oxford*, committed to *Bocardo*, without any written *Mittimus*, and there confined thirteen Weeks.

Imprisonment.

Verbal Commitment.

ANNO 1663. In this Year *Edward Drinkwater*, of *Gaging-Well*, for 30 s. demanded of him for Tithes, had three Horses taken away worth 18 l. Also *George Tomkins*, of *Milcomb*, for 5 l. 13 s. 4 d. claimed for Tithes, suffered Distress of his Cattle, to the Value of 23 l.

Distresses for Tithes.

On the 19th of the Month called *June*, *Joseph Coale*, *Clement Taylor*, *John Reynolds*, and *John Bolt*, were taken from a Meeting at *Henly*, by a Serjeant and several rude Fellows, and shut up all Night in a nasty Prison, without so much as Straw to lie on. This being done without any legal Authority, the Actors of it upon second Thoughts, set them at Liberty again the next Day.

Arbitrary Act.

On the 2d of the Month called *February*, some Soldiers came to the Meeting at *Banbury*, and took the Names of those present, one of whom was *Henry Philips*, who the same Evening was cited to appear before the Justices, which he did next Morning, and they required Sureties for his good Behaviour, and that he would not go to Meetings, which being refused, they sent him to *Oxford Goal* till the next Sessions, where the Oath was tendred him; as it also was at two subsequent Sessions, at the last of which, Sentence of *Premunire* was pass'd upon him, under which he was continued in Prison eight Years and an Half.

Premunire.

In this Year also, *John Carpenter*, *James Wagstaff*, and *Paul Newman*, being at *Warwick* about their lawful Business, some Friends met them at their Inn in the Evening, when the Bayliff of the Town came near Bed-time, and set a Guard upon them till the next Morning, when having nothing to charge them with, he tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing to Swear, sent them to Prison, where they also lay eight Years and an Half. *Laurence Willier* also, for refusing to Swear, was imprisoned about Half a Year. Also *William Waters*, of *Henly*, for suffering Meetings at his House, was excommunicated, sent to *Oxford Goal*, and kept there above six Months. Likewise *Thomas Reeves*, of *Great-Tue*, was committed to *Oxford Goal* on a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo*, in the Month called *February* 1664, and after six Years and an Half Imprisonment, died there.

Diverse Imprisonments.

Death of
T. Reeves
in Prison.

Edward Harman, of *Berkshire*, went to visit his Friends in *Oxford Goal*, and returning thence, was apprehended by the Goaler, and carried before the Mayor, who tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, and committed him to the City Prison, where he continued a Year and an Half.

Hard was the Case of *Thomas Minchin*, a poor blind Man, of *Burford*, who was prosecuted in the Bishop's Court for Absence from his Parish-Church, afterward excommunicated, and by a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo*, sent to

Hard Case of
T. Minchin
a blind Man.

OXFORD-SHIRE.
1664.

What befel his
Prosecutors.

Oxford Goal on the 23d of the Month called *March* 1663-4, where he lay Prisoner eight Years and an Half. The Priest of *Burford*, and a Register of the Bishop's Court, had been active in this Persecution. What afterward happened to these Men became a Subject of popular Remark. The Priest who published the Excommunication against him, about Half a Year after, was suddenly struck blind in his Pulpit, and continued so to his Death. The Register was not long after struck with a Sore and Lameness, so that his Flesh rotted away from his Bones while he was yet alive. These extraordinary Incidents occasioned such Reflections, as either Compassion to the innocent Sufferer, or Dislike to the Authors of his Suffering, are naturally apt to excite.

Distresses for
Tithes.

ANNO 1664. In this Year *Mary Gilkes*, of *Bloxham*, for a Demand of 25s. for Tithes, had two Cows taken away worth 6l. Also *John Woodfield*, for a Claim of 17s. 6d. suffered Distress of four Cows worth 9l.

Imprison-
ments.

In the Month called *August*, *Edward Vivers*, *Nathanael Lamprey*, *John Smith*, *John Long*, *William Strange*, *Thomas Cole*, *John Guliver*, *Edward Shepherd*, *Thomas Miller*, and *Richard Miller*, were taken from a Meeting at *Banbury*, and sent to Prison, where they lay six Weeks.

ANNO 1665. Taken in this Year for Tithes,

Distresses for
Tithes.

From *Benjamin Staples*, of *Chadlington*, for 2s. 1d. de-

manded, Goods worth

J. Hastings, of *Swaford*, for 1l. 10s. demanded,

two Horses worth

l. s. d.

4 8 0

6 0 0

For 1l. 12s. 1d.

Taken

10 8 0

Also *Thomas Reeves*, of *Great-Tue*, had an Horse taken from him worth 5l. for a Demand of Privy-Tithes, he being then in Prison.

Imprisonment
of Edward
Vivers.

In *September*, *Edward Vivers* was taken from his lawful Business, and, as was said, by an Order from the Lord Chancellor *Hide*, then Lord Lieutenant of the County of *Oxford*, committed to Prison: He was brought forth at several Assizes and Sessions, but though nothing appeared against him, yet he was from Time to Time returned to Prison. At length the Lord *Say*, who succeeded *Hide* in his Lieutenancy of that County, ordered *Edward* to be brought before him at a Sessions, when the only Cause shewed for his Commitment, was an Information that he had built a Meeting-house, and caused a Burial-place to be walled round: Whereupon, after two Years and seven Months Imprisonment, he was set at Liberty.

And of John
Guliver.

At the same Time, with *Edward Vivers* was also imprisoned in like Manner *John Guliver*, who was confined two Years and a Quarter from his Wife and five small Children. During his Imprisonment his Wife died; her Death was thought to be occasioned through Grief at the Suffering of her Husband, and the Hardships sustained by her self and Family through his Confinement.

Sundry Impri-
sonments.

On the 29th of *October*, *George Tomkins*, *William Hedges*, *Robert Knight*, *Simon Thompson*, and *John Stow*, were taken at a Meeting, and sent to Prison for three Months. And about the same Time, *Benjamin Ward*, of *Tadmarton*, and *Timothy Poultney*, of *Adderbury*, for being at a Meeting at *Milcomb*, were fined 5l. each, and for refusing to pay it, committed also to Prison for three Months; as were *Edward Drinkwater*, *John Watts*, and *Peter Barrett*, for five Months.

Long Imprison-
ments.

On the 27th of *December*, *George Weston*, of *Stansfield*, was committed to Prison by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, for his religious Non-conformity, and continued Prisoner about eight Years. In the same Month *Thomas Nichols*, of *Oxford*, having opened his Shop on the Day called *Christmas-day*, was taken before a Magistrate, who, that he might find some legal Occasion against him, tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing it, sent him to Prison, where he lay about Half a Year.

ANNO

ANNO 1666. John Harris, taken from a Meeting at Milton, was committed to Prison, where he lay thirteen Weeks.

John Wheeler, John Fernbam, John Goodenough, Thomas Monk, Thomas Taylor, Thomas French, William Franklin, Ellen King, Margaret Esmead, and Mary Saunders, being taken in a Meeting at the House of Elizabeth White, at Cogges near Whitney, were by two Justices, committed to the House of Correction for one Month. The like unmerited Punishment was inflicted on John Long and Nathanael Ball, who had been taken from a Meeting at Nor-Newton.

Thomas Nichols was taken by the Goaler and an Apparitor, and carried to Prison: They pretended to have a Writ against him, but would not let him see it. He was kept under close Confinement for a long Time after; the Consequence of a Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical Court for his conscientious Absence from the publick Worship.

Roger Brown, being chosen an Assessor for the Land-Tax, and coming before the Commissioners with his Hat on, they threatned to send him to Prison; but having no legal Matter against him, they tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, which they knew he would not take, and thereupon sent him to Goal, where he was detained sixteen Days: Thus was the Law made use of to avenge themselves, and to punish a Man for not humouring their Pride.

In this Year also, Edward Drinkwater, John Watts, Peter Barrett, and Abraham Ryeman, were committed to Prison for their constant attending religious Meetings.

ANNO 1667. On the 15th of December, the Widow Parsons, Anne Sessions, Elizabeth Bignall, Mary Saunders, Anne Box, Ellen King, Mary Hastings, Judith Busby, the Widow Rawbone, Elizabeth Dring, Alice Wheeler, Anne Wiltbers, Lucy Turner, Mary Kiton, and Anne Franklin, were taken at a religious Meeting, and committed to Bridewell for one Month. And about the same Time, for the like Cause, Solomon Eccles was committed to the County Goal for three Months.

In this and the next preceding Year were taken for Tithes,

	l.	s.	d.	
From Edward Drinkwater, of Easton, for 5 l. 15 s. demanded, Goods worth	5	25	0	0
John Hastings, of Swarford, for 3 l. demanded, Goods worth	3	13	0	0
Benjamin Staples, of Chadlington, for 6 l. 6 s. 6 d. demanded, Goods worth	6	20	16	6
* Thomas Reeves, of Great-Tue, for 15 s. demanded, Goods worth	1	6	0	0
Isaac Green, of Tadmarton, for 10 s. demanded, Goods worth	1	4	0	0
For 16 l. 6 s. 6 d.				
Taken	68	16	6	

Distresses for Tithes.

ANNO 1668. Cutbbert Hayburst, taken preaching in a Meeting at the House of Richard Betteris at Oxford, was by the Vice-Chancellor's Order, committed to the City Prison for one Month.

Imprisonment.

ANNO 1669. On the 25th of the Month called August, Robert Seacoal, Michael Sessions, George Hancock, Thomas Field, and Edward Walter, were taken at a Meeting at Milton, and then warned by the Constable to appear before the Justices at their Monthly Sessions at Chipping-Norton. They accordingly appeared, and after some Discourse about going to Church and Swearing, the Justices took their Words one for another, to appear at the next Quarter Sessions: They came thither, but with their Hats on, whence the Justices took Occasion

Fines at Quarter Sessions for the Hat.

* Thomas Reeves was at the same Time a Prisoner on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, and continued so till he died, after six Years and an Half Confinement.

OXFORD-
SHIRE.
1669.

Note.

A Priest
Informr.

A Parson's
Wife In-
former.

Distresses.

More Dis-
tresses.

to fine them five Marks each, and for Non-payment committed them to Prison, where they lay about Half a Year, through an exceeding cold Winter. The said Robert Seacoal, George Hancock, and Michael Sessions, had also Distresses made on their Goods for their Fines, to the Amount of 12 l. 5 s. Also James Sessions had a Load of Wood taken from him, for a Fine of 5 s. imposed on him for being at a Meeting. It was observed, that the Person employed to cart away that Wood, soon after sustained the Loss of all his Horses, which died suddenly, so that he had none left to fetch in his own Harvest.

ANNO 1670. On the 29th of the Month called May, was a Meeting at the House of Thomas Gilpin at Warborough, of which the Priest of the Parish, named Robert Coppul, gave Information to a Neighbouring Justice, who fined the said Thomas Gilpin 20 l. The Priest in his Sermon, a little before, had told his Auditors, that *Although the King's Laws might be contrary to the Law of God, yet they ought to be obeyed and submitted to*. He was a merry Fellow, and Pot-Companion, and when in his Cups, would go with his Comrades to the Quakers Meetings, to make Sport of them.

On the 26th of the next Month, was another Meeting at the said Thomas Gilpin's, which the Officers said, they were told of by Mrs. Powel, a Parson's Wife, who in the Warmth of her Zeal had sworn, that *Next Time she would be Informer her self*. Upon Complaint made of this Meeting to Francis Wainman and William Bayly, Justices, they granted a Warrant, authorizing the Officers to break open Locks and Bolts. So they went to Thomas Gilpin's, and broke open his Door, and took away his Household Goods, leaving him not a Bed to lie on, nor a Pot to boil his Food in. He had a Family of five small Children, which suffered much through this Seizure. Some Time after, as soon as he had got his Corn in, being about three Acres, the Officers came and took that also, with two Pigs, in all to the Value of 11 l.

Richard Betteris, for a Meeting at his House in Oxford, was fined 20 l. for which the Officers took of his Goods to the Value of 30 l. which they underfold so much, that the Justices granted them another Warrant to distrain again for a Deficiency of 10 l. which they laid upon Humphry Ollive, Thomas Nichols, and Laurence Willier, who were present at the same Meeting, and their Goods were taken away to the Value of 14 l. 8 s. 3 d. Beside which, the two last had taken from them for their own Fines, Goods worth 2 l. 6 s.

Taken also in this Year, for Meetings,

	l.	s.	d.
From William Williams, Margaret Esmead, Margaret Yarnton, William Pawling, and John Fernham, Goods worth	3	3	6
Thomas Monk, John Turner, William Wise, Bray Doyley, and Christopher Barrett, Goods worth	5	8	0
Thomas Taylor, William Kight, and Richard Windows	4	6	0
Henry Wheeler and Walter Winchcomb, wearing Apparel, worth	2	8	0
John Goodenough, John Shackerly, John Lanket, and Anne Lanket	7	9	0
Laurence Willier, and his Sister Anne Nutt	0	15	0
George Affon, of Bloxbam, Goods worth	20	0	0
	43	9	6

Jane Betteris, a poor Widow, and her Daughter, were fined 10 s. for Meeting; but they having lately had their Goods seized, and very little left, one of the Officers in Compassion paid their Fine, and left the poor Remainder of their Goods in their own Possession. And from Silas Norton aforesaid, they took Goods worth 1 l. 5 s. Edward Franklin, having no Goods, was sent to Bridewell, and kept there nine Days.

ANNO

ANNO 1671. In this and the two next preceding Years, *Edward Drinkwater*, for Demands of 16*l.* 12*s.* made on him for Tithes, had his Goods taken away to the Value of 35*l.* 4*s.*

OXFORDSHIRE.
1671.

ANNO 1672. In this Year also, Goods were taken from the said *Edward Drinkwater*, to the Value of 10*l.* 10*s.* for Tithes: And from *John Stow*, of *Great-Tue*, were taken for the same Cause, Goods worth 5*l.* 8*s.* From the same *Edward Drinkwater* were taken, at another Time for Tithes, four Cows and three Sheep: And from *George Tomkins*, of *Milcomb*, five Cows.

Distress for Tithes.

By the King's Letters Patent, granted in Favour of this suffering People, were discharged this Year, from their grievous Imprisonment in *Oxford Goal*, the following fifteen Persons, some of whom had been there long confined, namely, *Joseph Davis*, *Henry Philips*, *William Pettifer*, *Robert Thorp*, *John Thorp*, *Joseph Stevens*, *John Benham*, *Thomas Perry*, *Thomas Besley*, *John Wienn*, *Thomas Minchin*, *George Weston*, *Giles Tidmarsh*, *Godfrey Bennett*, and *Thomas Gilpin*.

Release of Prisoners.

ANNO 1674. *Benjamin Ward*, for Tithes of 3*l.* Value, claimed by *Creswell Wheatley*, Priest of *Tadmerton*, suffered Distress of forty two Sheep, worth 20*l.* Also *William Hawtyn*, of *Epwell*, at the Suit of *Humphry Smart*, Priest, for Tithes worth but 3*l.* had taken from him six Cows worth 18*l.* *John Tomkins*, at the Suit of *John Dide*, Priest of *Widdington*, had taken from him for Tithes, twenty nine Sheep and three Cows, worth 20*l.* And *Thomas Strank*, of *Milcomb*, at the Suit of the same Priest, was committed to *Oxford Goal* for Tithes.

Sufferings for Tithes.

Taken by Distress, for Meetings this Year,

From <i>Timothy Burborow</i> , of <i>Ayno</i> , a Cow and Calf worth	3	13	4
<i>Bray Doyley</i> , of <i>Adderbury</i> , five Cows and fifty	}	32	0
fix Sheep, worth			
<i>John Holcroft</i> , <i>John Bourton</i> , and <i>Thomas Mercer</i>	1	15	0
<i>James Treppass</i> , <i>Thomas Penn</i> , <i>William Aris</i> ,	}	5	2
<i>John Garner</i> , <i>Timothy Poultney</i> , and <i>Christopher Barrett</i>			
<i>Henry Wheeler</i> , <i>William Warwick</i> , and <i>Anne Watts</i>	8	6	0
	50	17	0

Distresses for Meetings.

ANNO 1675. The Distresses taken this Year, for frequenting religious Assemblies, were as follows, viz.

From <i>John Wheeler</i> , three Cows, a Calf, Brass, Pewter,	}	16	0	0
and other Things, to the Value of				
<i>Francis Dring</i> , of <i>Brisnorton</i> , Linen worth	0	13	9	
<i>Simon Yearton</i> , a Cow worth	4	0	0	
<i>Richard Kirby</i> , five Cows worth	12	10	0	
<i>William Wise</i> , of <i>Leaw</i> near <i>Bampton</i> , three Cows,	}	11	0	0
and Pewter, worth				
<i>Thomas Minchin</i> , of <i>Burford</i> , Cloth worth	8	13	4	
<i>Margaret Esmead</i> , <i>Thomas Yearton</i> , <i>John Turner</i> ,	}	4	8	0
<i>John Pauling</i> , and <i>John Hart</i> , Goods worth				
<i>Mary Roope</i> , <i>John Jefferson</i> , <i>Walter Forrest</i> , and	}	2	12	6
<i>John Harris</i> , Goods worth				
	59	17	7	

More Distresses for Meetings.

John Alcock, of *Sbutford*, refusing to Swear, when summoned to serve on a Jury, was fined, and had his Goods taken by Distress.

For refusing to Swear.

About this Time one *Richard Holliman*, a Miller of *Cookham*, being convinced in his Judgment of the Doctrine professed by the Quakers, withdrew himself

OXFORD-
SHIRE.
1675.

Persecution of
Richard Hol-
loman.

from the National Church, of which he had been a Member. This highly incensed his Parish Priest, Robert Cripps; and he having an Influence over the poor Man's Landlord, Justice Gregory, persuaded him to exert his Power against his poor Tenant, whom the Priest portray'd in the Guise of an *Heretic*. The Justice presently fined the poor Man 12d. per Day for Absence from the Church, and caused his Goods to be taken away, to the Value of 24s. which to a Man in his Circumstances, was a great Suffering, for he was very poor, and had many Children, some of whom were little. The Justice also turned him out of his Mill, which he and his Family had held many Years: For all which hard Usage he assigned no other Cause, than that the Man was turned *Quaker*; which, said the Justice, is the confoundedst Religion of all. Thus the honest poor Man, and his Family, were sacrificed to the Malice of the Priest, and the Ignorance of the Justice.

Imprisonment
for Tithes.

ANNO 1677. John Hastings, of Swarford, was committed to Prison by a Warrant grounded on a Certificate out of the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes, at the Suit of Martha Beesley, Widow and Executrix of Henry Beesley, Rector of Swarford.

Imprisonments
and Distresses
for Tithes.

ANNO 1678. Thomas Fardon was committed to Prison, at the Suit of Richard White, Priest of Broughton, for a Demand of 5l. for Tithes; and during his Imprisonment, the Priest's Tithe-Gatherer took Corn off his Ground, to the Value of 7l. About the same Time, John Wyatt was also imprisoned at Oxford for Tithes. And Humphry King, of South-Newton, was committed to Prison, at the Suit of Robert Penn, Impropiator, for Tithes of 40s. Value; he continued a Year in Prison, and within that Time had taken from him by the Prosecutor, Corn and Hay, to the Value of 4l. 10s.

In this Year also, was taken from Nathanael Ball, of North-Newton, for Tithes, Corn worth 20l. And from John Alcock, of Shutford, to the Value of 3l.

ANNO 1679. William Staple and Thomas Deane, both of Hook-Norton, were committed to the County Goal at Oxford, at the Suit of Thomas Wise, Priest, on the 28th of the Month called April this Year, and both died Prisoners there about three Months after; the Former for a Demand of 4l. 12s. and the Latter of 2l. 2s. 6d.

George Tomkins, of Milcomb, was prosecuted in the Exchequer, at the Suit of John Dide, Priest of Widdington, and had his Sheep, Corn, Hay, and Pease, seized by a Sequestration, to the Value of 100l.

Thomas Strank, at the same Priest's Suit, had his Corn, Cows, and Sheep, taken by a Sequestration, to the Value of 42l. 5s. 6d. Also Susanna Butcher, of Milcomb, Widow, at the Suit of the same Priest, had taken from her for Tithes, a Cart, Corn, and other Things, worth 14l. 7s. 8d.

Imprisonment.

ANNO 1683. John Long, of Netborp, was prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes of Milk, at the Suit of John Knight, Vicar of Banbury: He was sentenced to pay 6s. 8d. for Tithes, and 1l. 3s. 4d. for Charges, for Non-payment of which, he was pronounced contumacious, and upon a Certificate of Contumacy, was, by Warrant from two Justices of the Peace, committed to Prison; where he lay till some Relation of his, by paying the Priest's Demand, obtained his Liberty.

Distress.

On the 15th of the Month called July, was a Meeting at Milton, in the Parish of Shipton: Alexander Harris, though not present at that Meeting, yet was fined as being one of the Owners of the House, and had taken from him, Hay and Wood, to the Value of 8l.

Hard Case of
T. Minchin.

On the 28th of the Month called August 1683, Thomas Minchin, a Mercer of Burford, by an Exchequer Process, directed to John Wickham Esq; then Sheriff of the County of Oxford, for eleven Months Absence from Church, and not coming to hear what they call Divine Service, had Goods taken from him worth 90l. Though he was at that Time a Prisoner in Oxford Castle, on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, for the same Cause, and continued there near three Years, till discharged by King James's Proclamation of Pardon.

On

On the 12th of October, *Edward Young*, of *Milton* aforesaid, had taken from him by an *Exchequer* Process, for Absence from his Parish-Church, Goods to the Value of 60*l*.

OXFORD-SHIRE.
1683.

ANNO 1684. In this Year were taken at *Banbury*, for Fines imposed for Weekly Absence from the National Worship,

Hard Case of
E. Young.

From *Edward Vivers*, *Richard Vivers*, and *Andrew Hill*, Goods worth
Edward Wells, *Thomas Strank*, and *John Stowe*
David Hill and *William Wagstaff*

l. s. d.
0 15 0
0 19 4
0 6 4
2 0 8

Fines levied.

At *Banbury*, on the 3d of the Month called *August*, the Meeting was held in the Street, near the Meeting-house, which they were shut out of; and as *Richard Vivers* was praying, *Richard Wheatley* Mayor, with his Officers, came in; he fined *Richard Vivers* 20*l*. and issued his Warrant for Distress, by which he had Goods taken away, to the Value of 15*l*. 3*s*. 9*d*.

Fine and Dis-
tress for Meet-
ing.

On the 28th of December, *Silas Norton*, *Thomas Nichols*, *Thomas Fletcher*, *Nathanael Falkner*, *Thomas Broughton*, *Joseph Lamb*, *Daniel Lamb*, *John Freeman*, *James Bracey*, *Mary Clark*, *Joane Knowles*, *Anne Lancutt*, *Thomas Upton*, *John Hunt*, and *Elizabeth Hughes*, being together in Silence, waiting on the Lord at their usual Meeting-house at *Oxford*, *Richard Pratt* Mace-bearer, and *Robert Gardner* Bell-man, Informers, with *Eaton* a Constable, came and told them, *They must go to the Hall*: Being come thither, the Mayor and other Justices ordered the Informations against them to be taken down in Writing, and discharged them on Promise of appearing at the next Sessions. In the mean Time, on the 4th of the Month called *January*, the former twelve of the last mentioned fifteen Persons, were taken again at their Meeting, sitting as before, when the same Informers, and three Constables, took them away to the Hall, where after Examination by the Mayor and Justices, upon their refusing to find Sureties for the good Behaviour, they were sent to Prison till the next Sessions, on the 15th of the same Month, at which an Indictment was drawn up against them, and the other three, who also appeared there according to their Promise: The Grand Jury, having found the Bill, and they refusing to enter into a Recognizance to traverse it, were all of them sent back to Prison.

Processes for
Meeting.

On the 2d of the Month called *January*, *John Haynes*, of *Banbury*, being at the Interring of one of his Friends there, spake somewhat to the People who were met on that Occasion, by Way of Exhortation to remember their Latter-end: The late Mayor, *Richard Wheatley*, (though out of his Mayoralty, yet a Justice) came, and upon his own View and Hearing, convicted the said *John Haynes*, and fined him 20*l*. for which a Warrant was issued, and his Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 22*l*. When the Officers had seized the Goods, they charged some poor Men present to assist in carrying them away, but they refused; the Constable committed one of them, *Nathanael Reason*, to Prison, and threatened another of them with the Stocks.

Fine for speak-
ing at a Funer-
al.

On the 18th of the same Month, Information being given to *Samuel Reynolds*, Mayor of *Banbury*, and two other Justices, of a Meeting at the House of *John Parsons*, they granted Warrants for Distress, by which were taken from *Andrew Hill*, Goods worth 9*l*. *Thomas Strank*, Goods worth 2*l*. 4*s*. 3*d*. and from *John Hiborne*, to the Value of 1*l*. 16*s*.

Distresses for
Meeting.

In this Year also, *John Hughes* was imprisoned for his Refusal to pay several Fines imposed on him for being absent from the publick Worship.

Imprisonment.

ANNO 1688. *William Palmer*, of *Horneton* in the Parish of *Horley*, was Subpœna'd to appear at *Westminster*, at the Suit of *Stephen Goodwin*, Priest of *Horneton*, to answer to an *English* Bill, for four Years privy Tithes, for which he demanded 52*s*. he also claimed 5*s*. for a Marriage Fee, though he had not been employed in marrying him; also 6*s*. for a Mortuary for his deceased Mother,

Prosecution of
W. Palmer.

OXFORD-
SHIRE.
1688.

Mother, who left no personal Estate. In the Month called *August* this Year, he was taken by an Attachment, and carried to *Oxford Goal*, where he continued near two Years, till set at Liberty by an Act of Indemnity. Nevertheless he was shortly taken again on a new Writ of Attachment, for not appearing to the former *Subpœna*, and recommitted to Prison.

ANNO 1689 and 1690. Taken in Corn, Hay, and other Things, for *prædial* Tithes, from the several Persons undernamed, as follows, viz.

Tithes of Corn,
&c.

	l.	s.	d.
At NORTH-NEWTON, from <i>Nathanael Ball</i> and <i>Thomas Pardon</i> , to the Value of	12	0	0
At LOWER-TADMARTON, from <i>William Potter</i> and <i>Benjamin Ward</i>	18	15	0
At MILCOMB, from <i>William Tomkins</i>	5	3	0
At SOUTH-NEWTON, from <i>Richard King</i>	11	10	0
At GREAT-TUE, from <i>John Stow</i> and <i>John Butcher</i>	12	0	0
At LITTLE-TUE, from <i>Edmund Marshall</i>	4	10	0
At SIBFORD, from <i>Richard Tredwell</i> , <i>Thomas Flexney</i> , <i>William Soden</i> , <i>Thomas Faxon</i> , and <i>Richard Meakes</i>	8	19	0
At SHETFORD, from <i>Thomas Taylor</i>	4	0	0
At NETHER-HEYFORD, from <i>Richard Day</i>	3	0	0
At ADDERBURY, from <i>Christopher Barrett</i> , <i>Bray Doyley</i> , and <i>Ralph Hill</i>	16	15	0
At MIDDLE-BARTON, from <i>Thomas Fletcher</i>	0	8	0
At EPWELL, from <i>John Grafton sen.</i> , <i>William Hemings</i> , <i>John Hawtin</i> , and <i>Richard Grafton</i>	2	18	6
At NETHORP in <i>Banbury Parish</i> , from <i>John Long</i>	24	0	0
At COGGS, from <i>Michael Reynolds</i>	3	17	0
At ROAKES in <i>Bensington Parish</i> , from <i>Thomas Tutty</i>	5	4	6
At WARBOROW, from <i>Thomas Gilpin</i>	4	1	6
	137	1	6

Having now gone through such Sufferings of this People as we find recorded in this County, we proceed to *Somersetshire*.

C H A P. XXX.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1655.

ANNO 1655.

Persecution of
T. Murford.

Remarks on
Major Boyse.

ON the 7th of the Month called *May*, *Thomas Murford*, of *Englescomb* near *Bath*, being under a religious Concern to publish the Testimony of Truth, went into a Steeple-house at *Bath*, but his *Christian Love* was ill requited by the People there, who grievously beat and abused him: He was afterward by Warrant from two Justices sent to Prison, where he lay within one Day of two Years, under the Oppression of an unmerciful Goaler, who forced him to lodge on the bare Ground, and would not suffer his Friends to visit him. Observing Persons remarked, that Major *Boyse*, one of the Justices who committed him, was soon after smitten with a grievous Disease in his Legs and Limbs: And that the Goaler, who had used him so hardly, fell into a kind of Despair, and was in perpetual Disquietude of Mind till he had given up his Office.

Christopher

Christopher Holder and *Robert Wastfield* were imprisoned at *Ilchester*; the one for speaking to the Priest in *Keinsbam* Steeple-house, and the other for exhorting the People there, after the Priest had done: The former was soon bailed out, but the latter continued there about five Months.

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SHIRE.
1655.

John Dando and *Peter Walter*, standing peaceably in the Steeple-house at *Camely*, the People, at the Instigation of their Priest, pulled out the said *Peter*, and threw him into a Brook of Water: *John Dando* tarried till the Priest had done, and then spake to him the Words of Truth and Soberness; but the Priest reviled him, and excited the People against him, who kickt and beat him sorely. One *Thomas Dowlas* was very active in those Abuses, and most desperately swore that he would stop their Mouths, and with his Staff often struck the said *Peter Dando* on the Face: This *Dowlas* was a Man who had but one Eye, and it was observed, that shortly after, that Eye was struck out with the Blow of a Stick, so that he was quite blind.

Imprison-
ments.

Abuses of
J. Dundo and
P. Walter,

Josiah Coale, for his Christian Admonition to the Priest and People at *Mudford* Steeple-house, was dragged out, and inhumanly beaten, kickt, and abused, to the endangering of his Life. With like Usage *Thomas Leighton* was received at *North-Curry*, when he would have exhorted the People there to Repentance: After manifold Abuses, he was committed to *Ilchester* Goal, where the cruel Goaler hand-bolted him to another Prisoner, an egregious wicked Fellow, who made it his Sport to pull the innocent Man to and fro in the Goal: At *Taunton* Sessions, he was fined 5*l.* for not putting off his Hat; and when he asked the Justices, *By what Law they so fined him?* the Chairman answered, *That he would do it without Law.* After that he had Irons put upon his Wrists, and was fastened thereby to the Bars of a Window in *Taunton* Castle for some Time, and then carried back to *Ilchester*, where he continued Prisoner three Months longer. In like Manner *Benjamin Mansell* was treated at *Skipton Mallet*, who in the Steeple-house there, was thrown down by the rude People, unmercifully treading and stamping on his Breast, by which he was mortally bruised, and in that Condition sent to *Ilchester* Goal, where he lay languishing fourteen Weeks, and being let out, soon after died.

and of
J. Coale.

Persecution of
T. Leighton,

and of
B. Mansell.

ANNO 1656. *John Dando*, of *Hollowtrow*, for a Demand of 17*s.* 10*d.* for Tithes, had Goods taken from him worth 1*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*

Distress for
Tithes.

ANNO 1657. *Jasper Batt*, of *Street*, for a Demand of 40*s.* for Tithes, had Goods taken from him worth 9*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* And *William Sergeant*, of *Bathford*, for 5*l.* demanded for Tithes, had Goods taken away, to the Value of 15*l.*

Distresses for
for Tithes.

On the 1st of the Month called *June*, as *Henry Gundry*, an Husbandman, of *Street*, was driving his Oxen, he was arrested by two Bayliffs, at the Suit of a Tithe-farmer: The Bayliffs beat and abused him, and hurried him away to *Ilchester* Goal, without permitting him to speak to his Wife or any of his Friends. He continued Prisoner there above fourteen Months.

Imprisonment
for Tithes.

John Pitman, of *Street*, *William Shepherd*, of *Walton*, and *John Allen*, of *Trent*, were subpœna'd into the *Exchequer* for Tithes, and personally appeared at *London*, but no farther Process was made against them.

George Taylor, of *Kingsbury*, at the Suit of *Charles Darby*, Priest there; and *Samuel Clothier*, *Henry Clothier*, *Thomas Lockier*, and *John Cary*, all of *Alford*, at the Suit of *Thomas Earl*, Priest of that Parish, were subpœna'd into the *Exchequer*, where they all five personally appeared; notwithstanding which, they were committed to *Ilchester* Goal by an Attachment, on the 19th of the Month called *January* 1657, where they continued, *John Cary* about four Months, and the rest of them about seventeen Months.

On the 3d of *October* this Year, *William Sergeant*, of *Bathford*, was arrested at the Suit of *William Ellis*, of *Bath*, an Impropiator, kept Prisoner there twelve Days, and then removed to *Ilchester* Goal: When he had been there about ten Months, the Prosecutor entred another Action against him and his Wife; and in the Time of Harvest, when the industrious Woman was taking Care of their Corn, arrested her, and sent her also to Prison: They had two

Imprisonment
of W. Ser-
geant, his
Wife, and
Family.

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SET-
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1657.

Death of
W. Sergeant
in Prison.

Death of
a persecuting
Priest.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

Disturbance
of a Meeting
at T. Budd's
House.

Apprehending
of T. Salt-
house and
T. Budd.

trusty Servants yet left at Home, who diligently followed the Work of getting in their Harvest; but the Priest, then Vicar of *Box*, at whose Suit the said *William Sergeant* had before been arrested, and for a short Time imprisoned, found Means, under some Pretence, to get the Servants also arrested, taken from their Labour, and sent to Prison; thus endeavouring to compleat the Ruin of the whole Family: And had not some of the Neighbours been more charitable than he, their Harvest must have been lost for want of Hands to get it in. The said *William Sergeant*, after twenty Months Imprisonment, sealed his Testimony against the Antichristian Oppression of Tithes, by Death, and laid down his Life, a faithful Witness to the Truth of the Gospel in that Behalf.

About the Month of *September* this Year, *William Beakes*, of *Backwell*, was imprisoned for Tithes, at the Suit of *Thomas Edwards*, Priest of *Kingston-Seymour*: After eleven Months Imprisonment he was discharged, by Means of the Death of his Prosecutor, a Man much addicted to drinking, who being over-charged with Liquor, as he was riding homeward, fell off his Horse and brake his Neck. This Circumstance ministred obvious Cause for Reflection to such Persons as exercised their Thoughts in observing the Tokens of Divine Justice, discoverable by such extraordinary and singular Incidents.

Thomas Loscomb, of *Queen-Camel*, and *John Langdon*, of the same, were imprisoned at *Ilchester*, at the Suit of *Henry Andrews*, Tithe-farmer of the Parsonage of *Camel*; the former thirteen Months, and the latter, though above seventy two Years of Age, was detained there above ten Months; and being then released, was again imprisoned for the like Cause the next Year.

John Allen, of *Trent*, being subpoena'd into the *Exchequer* for Tithes, appeared there personally, and afterward exhibited his Answer to the Priest's Bill, which, because he could not swear to it, was rejected; but before an Attachment was served, *Oliver Cromwell* died, and the Suit dropt: Which being afterward renewed, fell again by the displacing of *Richard Cromwell*: Nevertheless, the said *John Allen* was imprisoned for some Time, by Order of the Barons of the *Exchequer*.

William Vincent, of *Trent*, and *Henry Moore*, of *Burnbam*, appeared personally, according to their Subpœna's into the *Exchequer* for Tithes: Nevertheless, they were imprisoned at *Ilchester* for a Contempt; the former ten Months, and the other four Months.

Jeffery Rumney, of *Walton*, was imprisoned four Months for Tithes. *John Waterman* and *George Waterman*, for a Claim of 16 d. for Tithes from each of them, were also committed to Prison: Also *William Petherbam*, of *Burnbam*, suffered Imprisonment for the same Cause: Likewise *William Tucker*, of *Naylsey*, died a Prisoner at *Ilchester*, a faithful Witness until Death, against the Oppression of Tithes.

James Catway, a poor Journeyman Weaver, for a Demand of 2 d. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for Tithe, was subpoena'd into the *Exchequer*, at the Suit of *Nicholas Brain*, Priest of *Wellington*.

On the 7th of the Month called *April* this Year, was a Meeting at the House of *Thomas Budd*, in the Parish of *Martock*, to which five Priests came, attended by a Rabble furnished with Staves, Cudgels, Pitchforks, and such like rustick Arms. They rushed into the Meeting with so much Confusion and Noise, that the Preacher could not be heard: Their Coming made it indeed a riotous Assembly, which the Moment before was a Congregation of grave and serious Christians, of sober and virtuous Conversations, and some of them of considerable Estates: However, the Priests who brought the Mob, and caused the Riot, complained to the Magistrates, that the Meeting held at *Thomas Budd's* was a riotous Assembly, to the Disturbance of the publick Peace. Whereupon one Captain *Raymond*, with his Soldiers, was ordered to disperse the next Meeting that should be held there: Accordingly he came thither on the 23d of the same Month, when *Thomas Salthouse* was Preaching, and took him, together with *Thomas Budd*, into Custody, and conducting them next Day

Day to Robert Hunt, Justice of the Peace, they were by him, and others, examined; the Tenour of which Examination was as follows, viz.

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Justices. What is your Name?

T. S. Thomas Salthouse.

Then they asked his Trade and Habitation, to which he made direct Answers.

Their Exami-
nation.

Justices. Do you acknowledge Subjection to the present Government of this Nation?

T. S. I own the higher Power, and the wholesome Laws of this Land, which are grounded upon the Law of Equity, by which I stand to be judged, and am now brought before you, in Submission to the present Government, by Captain Raymond's Order. I expect the Privilege of a free-born Englishman, to wit, Liberty of Conscience, to wait upon and worship God in Spirit, according as is express in the Instrument of Government.

Justices. We require you to be uncovered before the Magistrate.

T. S. I am sensible that I am in the Presence of the Lord God of Heaven and Earth, and I know of no Offence in standing before him with my Hat on; and if it be no Offence to him, who is the Lord and Master, I hope it's none to moderate Men (though Magistrates) that are but his Servants.

Justices. How long is it since you came from Lancashire?

T. S. About a Twelve-month; I cannot tell the Time to a Day.

Justices. How long ago is it since you came first into Somersetshire?

T. S. Above a Year, but I have been in Lancashire since that.

Justices. Where have you been this last Half Year, or the greatest Part of it, or where have you been a Week together in one Place?

T. S. I have been more than a Week at Plymouth, of late; but whether I have been the greater Part of this last Half Year in Somersetshire or Devonshire, I cannot tell.

Justices. How are you maintained? How do you live?

T. S. I want for nothing: I have Food and Raiment, and am therewith content.

Justices. An Highwayman would say so much for himself.

T. S. Do you look upon me to be such an One? To whom have I been burdensome? Or where is mine Accuser that hath any Thing to lay to my Charge?

Justices. Here is Captain Raymond doth accuse you.

T. S. It's well he is present: His Words cannot be wrested. Captain Raymond! What hast thou to lay to my Charge, or accuse me of?

Captain Raymond. You slighted me, and gave me no good Account of your Business, or whence you came, or where you lived.

T. S. That was * not a fit Time to examine me, the Company being in Confusion and Disorder, and several speaking to me who had no Authority; though I denied not to answer thee, nor do I now deny either my Name, Birth, or outward Habitation. I have a Father and Mother living, who have a good Estate in the Outward, from whom I have been (and may expect to be) supplied, when I have need of any Thing in the Outward.

Justices. There is a Scripture that you little mind: He that will not work, neither let him eat.

T. S. I own that Scripture; and must answer you with another: Cursed is he that doth the Work of the Lord negligently.

Then the Justices proceeded to examine Thomas Budd.

Justice Hunt. How long have you known Thomas Salthouse?

T. B. About a Year.

Justice Hunt. Do you know whence he came?

T. B.

* It was just as they came out of the Meeting, with a Multitude of rude and noisy People about them.

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1657.

T. B. I have heard that he is a North-Countryman born; but in what Parish and County I know not.

Justice Hunt. How often has he been at your House?

T. B. Two or three Times, but he never lay at my House but one Night.

Justice Hunt. Do you know what Calling he is of?

T. B. I know not of what Calling he hath been formerly, but I believe he is now called to preach the Gospel.

Justice Hunt. What Ground have you to believe that he is called to the Ministry?

T. B. Because the Word preached by him has reached my Heart.

Priest Walker. Can you own that Man to be a true Minister, that will not acknowledge the Scriptures to be the Word of God? What say you, Mr. Budd, Are the Scriptures the Word of God, yea, or no?

T. B. Christ is the Word; and the Scriptures are a true Declaration of him.

Priest. But do you own the Scriptures, both of the Old and New Testament, to be Truth?

T. B. Yes, I do.

Priest. Gentlemen, I shall desire you to give me Leave to ask Mr. Budd some farther Questions.

T. B. Thou art no Justice of Peace, therefore I am not bound to answer thee.

Priest. But seeing the Gentlemen have given me Liberty, let me ask you; Did you ever take * Tithes when you were a Minister?

T. B. Yes, I did.

Priest. And seeing you are now of the Judgment that it is unlawful to take Tithes, are you not bound to make Restitution?

T. B. I never sued any Man for Tithes, while I acted as a Minister in the National Way: And if any are free to give their Tithes to the Minister, I have nothing against it; but for Ministers to enforce the Payment of Tithes from the People by Law-Suits, I know no Rule in Scripture that will warrant such a Practice.

Justice Hunt. If Men were free to pay their Dues, the Minister would have no Need to sue them.

T. B. Possibly they may not profit by their Ministry, and therefore they are not free to pay them.

Justice Hunt. Though they are evil Ministers, yet the People are not to withhold their Dues from them; for Judas had a Maintenance as well as the rest of the Apostles.

T. B. If any are free to maintain a Judas, they may use their Liberty.

Priest. I desire to ask one Question more of Mr. Budd: Do you own the Resurrection of the Just and Unjust?

T. B. Yea, I do.

Justice Hunt. I hear you have had several Meetings at your House of late: What Number of People do you conceive there was at that Meeting about three Weeks since?

T. B. I conceive there might be about seven or eight Hundred.

Justice Hunt. And how many do you think were there meeting at your House Yesterday?

T. B. About two or three Hundred.

Justice Hunt. Did you send any Letters abroad to give Notice of the same?

T. B. Yea, I writ Letters to some Friends to acquaint them of it, it being that which they had before desired of me.

Justice

* Thomas Budd had been one of the established Preachers of the National Church, but being convinced of the Truth, as professed by the Quakers, had separated himself from that Church, renounced his Benefice, and became a Minister of the Gospel; without Money and without Price.

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Justice Hunt. *Do you not conceive there is Danger in such Meetings?*
T. B. Our Friends met together peaceably in the Name and Fear of the Lord, to worship him in Spirit and in Truth; where we sustained great Injuries, making no Resistance: We had our Clothes torn; some spat upon our Heads; others threw Cow-dung, Sticks and Dabs of Earth at us; and afterwards our Friends that spake, were haled and pull'd down from their Places: Therefore as you are set to do Justice upon Offenders, so I desire that you will make Enquiry after such of them as were guilty of that Tumult, and let the Innocent enjoy their Freedom.

Captain Raymond. *Mr. Budd, I hope you will engage here before the Gentlemen, not to have any more Meetings at your House without an Order.*

T. B. It is our Liberty to meet together in the Worship and Service of God, and for so doing we shall not expect Orders from Men.

Captain Raymond. *I pray take Notice what Mr. Budd says, He intends to have more Meetings at his House.*

T. B. Friends, we live now in perilous Times, and therefore though our Meetings formerly have been but seldom, we intend to have them more frequent for Time to come.

Justice Cary. *Mr. Budd, your Friends are much grieved that you have been a Man so much given to change.*

T. B. I wish all my Friends would turn all their Grief into the Grief for their own Sins: And not only I, but Paul himself doth witness a Change, saying of himself, that *he was a Persecutor, a Blasphemer, and Injurious, but God shewed Mercy.*

Justice Hunt. *Did not you preach Christ formerly, when you were a Minister?*

T. B. Yea, I did preach Christ in a Notional Manner, but now I witness him in Life and Power.

Justice Hunt. *Do you own Magistracy and Government?*

T. B. Yea, I do.

Justice Hunt. *Is not Honour due to Magistrates?*

T. B. Yea, to such Magistrates as are a Terror to evil Doers.

Priest. *But there is Honour due to evil Magistrates.*

T. B. What, as being Evil?

Priest. *Yea.*

T. B. Wilt thou set it down in Writing under thy Hand?

Justice Hunt. *Nay, it is not due to them as Evil, but as Magistrates.*

T. B. This I own; that there is Honour due to the Power, for there is no Power but of God.

Justice Hunt. *Do you then distinguish between the Person, and the Power?*

T. B. Yea.

Justice Hunt. *So then it seems there is Honour due to the Power, but none to the Person: How then is this Honour to be express'd?*

T. B. Not by flattering Titles and Compliments, but by Love, Service, Duty, and Obedience.

This Examination shews, with what a noble Spirit of undaunted Innocence, and Intrepidity, these Men maintained their religious Right of Assembling together for the Worship of God, for which they stood ready to sacrifice their Liberty, and even Life itself. Notwithstanding this convincing Proof, both of the Meekness and Magnanimity, by which true Christian Sufferers, in the Cause of a good Conscience, are supported; the Issue was, that the Justices sent Thomas Saltbouse to Prison by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

“ Somerset sh.

“ **W**E have herewithal sent you the Body of Thomas Saltbouse, who was this Day brought before us as a dangerous, idle, and wandering Person, who upon Examination can give no Account of any visible Estate he hath to live upon, but upon his own Confession it appears to us, that he hath

T. Saltbouse
committed to
Prison.

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1657.

" for the Space of one Year last past, wander'd from *Lancashire* through
" several Counties of the Nation, and makes very little or no Stay in one
" Place, but appears to be an idle, dangerous, and wandering Person. These
" are therefore, in his Highness's Name, to require you to take the said *Thomas*
" *Saltbouse* into your Custody, and him safely keep, so that you may have his
" Body before the Justices of the Peace at the next General Sessions, to be held
" for this County, there to be dealt with according to the Law in such Case
" made and provided: And hereof fail not. Given under our Hands and
" Seals this 24th Day of *April* 1657.

To the Keeper of the Goal at
Ilchester. Greeting.

" ROBERT HUNT,
" JOHN CARY."

Oath of Ab-
juration ten-
dred to T.
Saltbouse.

Several fined
for refusing to
swear, and
imprisoned.

Horses taken
away.

Several other
imprison-
ments.

Horses taken
away.

At the Quarter Sessions in the Month called *July*, great Endeavours were
used to have found him and others, present at the same Meeting, namely,
Thomas Budd, *William Boatman*, *John Pitman*, *John Dando*, *Christopher Pittard*,
George Taylor, *John Collins*, *Samuel Cloibier*, *Richard Adams*, *John Clothier*,
Jasper Batt, *Robert Wastfield*, *Henry Gundry*, *Edward Taylor*, and *Arthur*
Gundry, guilty of a Riot: But those Attempts were frustrated by the con-
curring Testimonies of all the Witnesses produced against them, unanimously
agreeing, that all the *Quakers* were unarmed, and did not make any Resistance.
Wherefore the Justices tendred the Oath of Abjuration to *Thomas Saltbouse*,
and for refusing to take it, fined him 5*l*. At the same Sessions *Christopher*
Bacon was fined 5*l*. for appearing there with his Hat on. The like Fine was
also at that Sessions imposed on *Thomas Loscomb*, who being chosen Surveyor,
had been then imprisoned several Months for refusing to swear to execute that
Office; being thus fined, he was committed to Prison for Non-payment.

Jasper Batt and *John Pitman*, both of *Street*, were fined 20*s*. each, for re-
fusing to take an Oath when tendred them at a Court-Leet.

George Taylor and his Wife, riding on the First-day of the Week to *Puddi-*
more Meeting, had one of their Horses taken away; and on the same Day of
the next Week, passing thither again through *Ilchester*, had their Mare taken
away with Saddle, Pillion, and Bridle. In like Manner *Christopher Pittard's*
Horse was taken from him as he was riding to the same Meeting: At which
Meeting the Justices, *Hunt* and *Cary*, being informed that *Thomas Budd's* Wife
was present, they granted their Warrant for levying 10*s*. upon her Husband's
Goods. About the same Time *Christopher Bacon*, of *Sutton*, going to *Puddi-*
more Meeting, by the Way went to visit his Friends in *Ilchester* Goal, where
he was taken by the Watch; after three Days Detention there, he was sent to
Prison, where he lay three Months, till the Sessions; at which he was fined 5*l*.
for not taking off his Hat, and recommitted. For the same Cause also, *James*
Hobbs, of *Walton*, a substantial Yeoman, being summoned to the Quarter
Sessions, was fined 5*l*. and for not paying it, recommitted to Prison, where
he had been six Months before for refusing to Swear when called to serve upon
a Jury.

In this Year also, *John Collins* and *Samuel Curtis*, coming to a Meeting at
Hinck-church, had their Horses taken from them. *John Collins's* Horse, confessed
to be worth 7*l*. was sold for 50*s*. of which when they offered to return him 40*s*.
he refused to accept it, being unwilling to shew any Compliance with their
Injustice.

ANNO 1658. In this Year were taken for Tithes,

Distresses for Tithes.	From		Demand			Goods worth		
			<i>l</i> .	<i>s</i> .	<i>d</i> .	<i>l</i> .	<i>s</i> .	<i>d</i> .
	From	<i>Henry Clothier</i> , of <i>East-Liddiford</i> , for	7	0	0	19	0	0
		<i>George Jacob</i> , of the same	2	0	0	4	0	0
		<i>John Baker</i> , of <i>Berrington</i>	2	0	0	2	10	0
			<hr/>			<hr/>		
			For	11	0	0	Taken	25
						10		
						0		
						<i>Elizabeth</i>		

Elizabeth Jones, Alice Wytkey, and Katharine Wytkey, for 12d. demanded of each of them for Tithes, were subpœna'd into the Court of Exchequer.

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1658.

About this Time it happened that *Elizabeth Tucker*, a zealous Woman of *Ilminster*, went to the House of *James Strong*, Priest of that Place, and exhorted him in the Name of the Lord, *To give over deceiving the People, where he was set up and owned as a Minister, and no longer to make a Prey upon the Innocent by his covetous Practices.* The Priest, angry at Reproof, thrust her out, and shut the Door after her, before she had fully express'd her Mind: Wherefore she again attempted to have spoken to him in the Steeple-house after his Sermon, but he would not hear her. She went again to his House, two Women of that Town, *Anne Wilmot* and *Joane Giles*, accompanying her, and began to speak to him, but was thrust down Stairs by some of his Company, and much hurt. The Priest, to avenge himself on these three Women, formally swore the Peace against them, declaring on Oath, that he went in Fear of his Life from them; upon which they were committed to Prison, and at the next Assizes, refusing to submit to the Priest, whom they said, they had not injured, were fined one of them twenty Pounds, and the other two twenty Marks each, and for Non-payment sent back to Prison, where they remained thirteen Months.

Exchequer
Process.

Imprisonment
of three Wo-
men for of-
fending a
Priest by
deserved
Reproof.

John Evans, of Englescomb, a Man of a considerable Estate, was taken up as a Vagrant at Wells, but eleven Miles from Home, and carried before a Justice of the Peace, who, because he appeared before him with his Hat on, committed him to Prison, where he lay about four Months.

Imprisonment
of J. Evans.

*Katharine Evans, Wife of the said John Evans, publicly exhorting the People to Repentance in the Market-place at Salisbury, was, by the Mayor's Order, tied to a Whipping-post in the Market, and there whipt by a Beadle, who doing his Office was observed to tremble much: After which she was sent out of Town with a Pass. She returned thither in the next Month, and exhorted the People as before: The Mayor then ordered her to *Bridewell*, and to be put in a close nasty Place, called the *Blind-house*, where two Madmen had lately died, with a Charge to the Keeper that none of her Friends should come to her, and that she should have no Food but what she earned in that Place, which yet was too dark to see to work in. This was a kind of Egyptian Cruelty. While she lay there, the Magistrates were consulting to have her whipt again, when one of them, *Colonel Wheat*, zealously opposed it, and told the Mayor, *They might as well have whipt the Woman of Samaria, that brought the glad Tidings into the Town.* This put a Stop to their Proceeding, so that after some Time of Imprisonment in that nasty Place, they privately ordered her to be sent out of the Town.*

Persecution of
K. Evans at
Salisbury.

Tobias Daniel, of Keinsbam, went into the Steeple-house there, and after their Worship was over, uttered a Christian Exhortation to the People, for which he was sent to Prison, but at the Sessions was acquitted from an Indictment laid against him for disturbing the Priest in his Office, to whom he had neither done nor said any thing.

Imprisonment
of T. Daniel.

*William Willey, of Naysley, standing still in the Steeple-house there, was violently pulled out by the Priest himself, and next Day sent to *Ilchester* Goal by a Warrant from Justice *Cole*; who also about the same Time committed *Editb Mitchell*, of *Barrington*, to Prison, for speaking to the Priest and People there. This Justice *Cole* was so virulent against the Quakers, that when a Sheep-stealer was brought before him, he spake to him thus; *I will send you to Goal to the Quakers, and you shall go to the Gallows together.* But he, who made so light of other Men's Lives, enjoyed his own not long, for shortly after, being ready drest to go out on a Journey, he was surpriz'd with sudden Sickness, and died the same Day.*

W Willey
imprisoned by
Justice Cole,
who soon after
died suddenly.

For the like Christian Exhortation given to the Priest and People, *Mary Hazel*, of *Whitchurch*, was imprisoned at *Ilchester* four Months, and *Samuel Scott*, of *Puddimore-Milton*, was set in the Stocks there two Hours: Also the

Imprisonments
and Abuses.

afore said

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1658.

W. Wookey
imprisoned for
reproving a
Priest.

Character of
that Priest.

Partiality of
Commissioners.

A fighting
Priest.

Sundry Abuses.

Illegal Abuses.

aforefaid *Katharine Evans* was much abused by the rude People, at the Instigation of the Priest at *Warminster*, and had her Clothes torn off her Back.

William Wookey, of *East-Liddiford*, after the Priest had ended his Sermon there, spake to him some Words of Reproof; for which he was, by two Justices present, sent to *Ilchester* Goal, and at the next Sessions at *Taunton*, was sentenced to *Bridewell* for five Months, as an idle, lewd, disorderly Person, a Disturber of the Peace of the Commonwealth, for breaking the Laws, and speaking against the Ministers of the Gospel. But what Right this Priest, whose Name was *Thomas Horsey*, had to that honourable Appellation of Minister of the Gospel, and with what Kind of Justice the Commissioners in those Days for ejecting scandalous Ministers, did proceed, the Reader may judge by the following Account of him, viz. "When he came to *East-Liddiford*, he had a Living at *Barton*, a Mile or two from thence, where he so behaved himself, that some of his Parishioners presented him before the Commissioners, and exhibited Articles against him for being a Drunkard, a Quarreller, a Railer, a Malignant, contemning Authority, and vilifying Acts of Parliament, a constant Gamester, a Prophaner of the Lord's Day, a Breaker down of Fences, an Encourager of idle, loose Liars, and Swearers, a false Swearer, an abusive Man in Language, with much more." There were seven and thirty Witnesses ready to give Evidence against him: The Priest well knowing that his Manners would not bear such a Scrutiny, before his Trial came on, surrendered his Living into the Commissioners Hands, and so the Prosecution dropt. The Commissioners immediately placed him in the Parsonage of *East-Liddiford*, then vacant, and that of *Barton*, which he had resigned, being also void, they appointed him to officiate there, and to be paid Weekly. Thus the Man, whose Merits had brought him to the Brink of Ejectment from one Living, was preferred to the Profits of two, by the Partiality of the Commissioners.

William Stone, of *Shapwick*, standing still in the Grave-yard there, while the Priest was speaking at the Interment of a Person deceased, was struck several Times by the Priest with his Fist or Book, and because he could not excite his more civil Hearers to abuse their inoffensive Neighbour, he was angry, and obtained a Warrant from a Justice of the Peace to bring *Stone* before him, for the Justice wanted not Will to have obliged the Priest, by persecuting the Quaker, but could not find any colourable Cause to proceed against him, wherefore he dismiss'd him with threatening Words. Among those who about this Time also suffered for testifying against the Hireling Priests, were *Edward Taylor* of *Street*, *John Wall* of *Edington*, and *Robert Giles* of *Ilminster*. Likewise *John Anderdon*, of *Bridgwater*, for testifying against Superstition and false Worship, was push'd out of the Steeple-house there by *Robert Holcomb*, the Parish-Clerk, who said, that *John Anderdon* had been among Witches. And the Wife of one *Andrews*, a zealous Presbyterian, said, that *John Anderdon* was turned from God to the Devil: An Expression heard and resented by his Neighbours, who knew his upright Character and Conversation, and it was by them remarked, that the Woman, after that Expression, soon fell into a languishing Condition, pined away and died.

Anthony Tucker, of *Ugborough* in *Devonshire*, going homeward from *London*, was taken at *Sanford-Arundel*, and by a Justice of that Place sent to *Taunton* *Bridewell*, where he was kept three Weeks. *Thomas Briggs* and *John Braithwait*, who came many Miles to visit one of their Friends in Prison at *Ilchester*, were unmercifully beaten by the wicked Goaler, and not suffered to come in; *Samuel Scott* also, who went with them to the Goal-door, was much abused; as was also *John Scafe*.

At *BATH*, *Nicholas Jordan*, *Jane Murford*, *John Evans*, and *Katharine* his Wife, with others, as they passed to and repassed from the Goal, were assaulted and abused by the Rabble in the Streets, who said, They were ordered by the Mayor to use them so, because they were Quakers. In like Manner, *John Slade*, was grievously abused as he was travelling quietly on the Highway.

ANNO

ANNO 1659. Richard Hill, of Faringdon, for 2*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* demanded for Tithes, had Goods taken from him worth 20*l.*

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1659.

In this Year the following Persons were committed to the County Goal for refusing to pay Tithes, viz.

On the 27th of October, Richard Bull, of North-Cadbury. On the 12th of November, Henry Gerish, of Saltford. On the 17th of the same, Stephen Bailey and Anne Brooke, both of Whitchurch, and John Roman, of Puddimore-Milton. On the 19th, Robert Carpenter of Puddimore-Milton, William Partridge of Miferton, and Robert Hilburne of North-Petherton. And on the 25th, John Comb of South-Brent. On the 13th of the Month called January, Thomas Hurd of Somerton. And on the 14th, Jonathan Tucker, Tristram Gundry, and Edward Taylor, all of Street.

Prosecutions
for Tithes.

In this Year also, James Pierce of Keinsbam, Thomas Boulter, John Sage, John Cole, and Richard Hill, all of Chewton, were subpoena'd into the Exchequer for Tithes. Likewise Henry Gould of Street, and Agnes Barret, she being very ancient, and both poor, were arrested for a frivolous Demand of Tithe, which a Neighbour, in pure Compassion to their Circumstances, paid, and so ransomed them out of the Bayliffs Hands.

On the 22d of the Month called March this Year, was a Meeting at the Market-Cross in Glastonbury, where Edward Burroughs preached. Samuel Winney, Priest of that Parish, attended by some drunken Fellows with a Drum, came thither and demanded of Edward, By what Authority he came there to preach? Edward answered in the Scripture-Phrase, He that hath received a Gift, let him minister according to the Gift received. He then returned the Question upon the Priest, desiring him to prove his Call to the Ministry by Scripture. This pinch'd him, and he withdrew, leaving the Rabble to plead his Cause, who fell to beating their Drum, whooping, halloeing, and thrusting the Friends to and fro, in a wild and barbarous Manner: And it was said, that one of the Priest's Agents had made many of the Mob drunk, on purpose to qualify them to perform such wicked Service for the Church.

A Meeting
molested by
a Priest and
others.

ANNO 1660. In this and the several preceding Years from 1654, there had been taken by Distresses in this County, for trifling Demands made on Account of Steeple-house Rates, Clerk's Wages, and such Ecclesiastical Pretences, amounting but to 4*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* Goods worth 22*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* Some of which Distresses were very Exorbitant, for Instance, Matthew Canney, for a Claim of 1*s.* had Goods worth 20*s.* taken away; and John Fudge, for 2*s.* 8*d.* had his Effects seized to the Value of 3*l.*

Distresses.

A Person very officious in making these Distresses, who used to boast among his Pot-Companions how he would make Spoil of the Quakers, as he was going Home from his Associates, fell into a Coal-pit, where he was found dead next Morning. His doleful Exit was remarked as a just Judgment on a wanton Persecutor. It happened about the same Time, that one John Langley, Warden of Keinsbam, was taken sick, having in his Custody Goods which he had taken by Distress from some of these People, which on his Death-Bed he ordered to be returned, saying, They were honest Men: An Action demonstrative of real Repentance for what he had done.

Death of a
Persecutor.

On the 22d of the Month called August this Year, John Comb, after above nine Months Confinement, died a Prisoner in Ilchester Goal for Tithes: And on the same Day, Thomas Murford and John Evans, of Englescomb, were committed to the same Prison for Tithes, at the Suit of the Priest of that Parish, and together with them Julian Evans Widow, near an Hundred Years old. On the 27th of the same Month, Jeremy Langdon, of Queen's-Camel, a poor Man, aged about sixty seven, was taken from his Harvest-Work, (in the Fields of his Brother John Langdon, then in Prison for Tithes) and sent to Goal for Tithe of a Load of Beans, amounting to about 4*s.* for which trifling Demand the Prosecutor also caused three other poor Men, who were employed to get in John Langdon's Corn, to be arrested and put to much Expence, viz. William Haggett, John Bailey, and John Goodson. On the same Day William Martin

Death of
John Comb,
Prisoner for
Tithes.

Many Impri-
sonments and
Prosecutions
for Tithes.

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1660.

was sent to Prison for Tithe worth about 4 s. Also *Mary Thatcher* Widow, aged about sixty four, was sent to the same Prison, where she lay about two Years and ten Months, for Tithes of not above 6 s. Value.

On the 7th of September, *Thomas Hurd*, of *Somerton*, was committed at the Suit of *William Pryn*, Impropiator. And on the 20th of the same, *John Sage*, of *Chewton*, about sixty six Years of Age, with *John Cole* and *Richard Hill*, of *Faringdon*, were sent to Prison for Tithes, where they lay two Years and eight Months, till discharged by the Death of their Prosecutor.

On the 17th of October, *Hugh Wilmington*, of *Stafford* in the Parish of *Berwick*, was committed to Prison, and after about fourteen Months Confinement died a Prisoner for his Testimony against Tithes. And about the same Time, for the same Cause, *Richard Adams*, of *Limington*, also laid down his Life in Prison: As did also *Thomas Dunne*, of *Kingsbury*, who on the 7th of November departed this Life after an Imprisonment of seven Months Continuance. Thus these Men ended their Days, bearing a faithful Witness against the forced Maintenance of Ministers by Tithe, a Maintenance utterly inconsistent with the Doctrine of Christianity, and the free Dispensation of the Gospel. About this Time *John Baker*, of *Everach*, was committed to Prison on Revival of an old Suit for Tithes of about 16 s. Value, for which he suffered about eight Years Imprisonment.

On the 22d of the Month called January, *Jasper Batt* and *Henry Gundry*, of *Street*, were sent to Prison; the former for Tithe of 4 s. 6 d. Value, and the latter but of 1 s. On the same Day *James Pearce* and *Thomas Boulter*, of *Keinsbam*, were also carried to *Ilchester* Goal for Tithes; as had been five Days before, *Abraham Gundry* and *William Tyler*, of *Street*, for the same Cause. Also *Sarah Batt*, of the same Place, a Widow aged seventy three, was carried to the same Prison under an Arrest, but set at Liberty again upon some Engagement for her Appearance.

Rough Pro-
ceedings at
a Meeting in
Chew.

Cruel Abuses.

Boisterous were the Proceedings at a Meeting at the House of *John Hall* in *Chew-magna*, where *James Burgis*, a Captain of the Militia, rushed in at the Head of a rude Rabble, who at his Command, haled out the Persons assembled, by Violence, tearing their Clothes, and threatening to kill them, abusing the Women barbarously, so that some of them were in Danger of their Lives. In like Manner *John Warre*, a Justice of the Peace, conducted himself at *Gregory-Stoke*, where he, with Soldiers, fell upon the Persons assembled, beating many, breaking their Heads and battering their Faces most cruelly; they knockt down some whom they met upon the Road, threw one into a Pond of Water, and then standing on each Side, threatened to Pistol him if he came out; others they wounded, so that the Blood ran about their Heads, and few escaped unhurt.

Many of this People were now in *Ilchester* Goal; the Cause and Manner of whose Commitment is expressed in the following Letter, written by one of them, viz.

" Dear Friend,

A Letter from
one of the Pri-
soners at Il-
chester.

" BY Reason of some rash, unadvised Enterprize of the Monarchy-men in
" London, which we hear of late hath happened, which we are altogether
" unacquainted with, and clear in our Consciences and Practices toward God
" and Men, from the least Knowledge of or Hand in, yet we are made as
" equally guilty with Transgressors, amongst whom we are numbred and
" confined in Prison, where we patiently wait until the Lord clear our Inno-
" cency, and plead our Cause. We are in Number already one Hundred and
" forty, and expect more to be daily added, and the Cry of the innocent
" Babes, who are left as it were Fatherless, and of the mournful Women, that
" are deprived of the Help of their Husbands, by such a sudden Surprizal,
" cannot but reach into the most secret Corner of the King's Palace, and
" pierce the hardest Heart that hath any Affection to Nature: The Lord
" plead our Cause, and clear our Innocency, and reward them according to
" their

"their Works, that have brought this Distress upon the Nation. I hope the King knows, or will know, that the persecuted People called Quakers had no Hand in the Trespas which occasioned such a Proclamation, whereby our Meetings are all broken, and in many Places both Men and Women much abused, beaten, blooded, dragged out of their Houses, and some out of their Beds, and others from their ordinary Employments, and haled before Magistrates, and so sent to Prison, for not going to Parish Churches, as they are called; and the Oath tendred to them, and for refusing to Swear, committed; and on this Account there are sent to the Goal some Days thirty, some more, and some less, and daily we are in Expectation to have Friends brought, so long as there can be one found to go under the Denomination of a Quaker, unless there be a Stop put to that Spirit, that takes this Opportunity to strike at every Appearance of Truth. The very worst of Men in the Prison, that suffer for Felony and Murder, rejoicing to see us so persecuted, and supposing themselves in better Condition than Men of tender Consciences, and the rude, wild, and ranting People in the Country, take Occasion to rejoice that they have now the Countenance of Authority to apprehend, persecute, and imprison the Quakers, and some not satisfied that we are confined in Prison, for Blood is thirsted after, without which some may hardly escape out of this Place, except the Lord restrain the Wrath of Man."

Ilchester, the 22d of the Eleventh Month 1660.

The Number of Prisoners thus imprisoned, between the 1st of December and the 17th of the Month called March this Year, at Ilchester, was two Hundred and twelve, whose Names in the Index for this County may be distinguished by their Reference to this Page. Their Usage in the Goal was very hard, Lombard the Goaler, and his Underkeepers, haling several of them from Prison to Prison, using many vile and wicked Words, and shutting up thirty or forty of them together, in a cold Cock Loft, and another Place, where they had scarce Room to lie down, and permitting neither Meat, Drink, nor Bedding to be brought them by their Friends, nor had they Liberty so much as to ease their Bodies, but in the same Room. Some of them were denied Straw to lie on, and even Water to drink. Those who came to visit and relieve them were very much abused: The Provisions for their Subsistence were sometimes taken away and given to the Felons: Two of them, John Anderdon and Richard Lincoln, were put in Fetters of Iron, and so kept several Days and Nights, and led in them through Ilchester Town by the Hangman, to the Astonishment of the sober Inhabitants who knew them and their Conversation. Samuel Curtis, and five others, were chained in the Common Goal among Felons.

In this Year also, Thomas Gully was committed to Cock-Moyle Prison.

ANNO 1661. On the 8th of the Month called May, John Clotbier, of East-Liddiford, was sent to Prison for not paying Tithes. On the 15th of the Month called June, Jonathan Tucker, of Street, was seized in his own House by Bayliffs, on an Action for Tithes, and hurried away to Ilchester Goal, without being suffered to take with him either Clothes or other Necessaries. In the Month of September, Thomas Goodbind of Saltford, Christopher Pittard of Hummer, Thomas Comb and Thomas Hamborough, both of Gregory-Stoke, were committed to Prison for Tithes, but after twenty Months Imprisonment were set at Liberty by Means of the Death of their Prosecutor. In the same Month Thomas Gully was committed to Taunton Castle for Tithes, and lay there about fifteen Months till his Prosecutor died.

On the 21st of November, Richard Harditch, of Clapton, was committed to Prison for Tithes; as was on the 3d of the Month called February, Jeremy Langdon, of Camel.

SOMERSET-SHIRE. 1660.

212 Prisoners.

Their hard Suffering.

Two of them put in Irons.

Others chained among the Felons.

Imprisonments for Tithes.

On

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1661.

At the Assizes
at Chard nine
Persons in-
dicted for re-
fusing to
swear.

On the 28th of the Month called *March*, the Assizes began at *Chard*, twelve Miles from *Ilchester*, and the *Quakers* in Prison were ordered by the Goaler to go thither the Day before, which they did generally on Foot, being about two Hundred, and but one Keeper attending them. At that Assizes nine of them were tried on the following Indictment, viz.

" Somerset Is.

THE Jurors for our Lord the King, upon their Oaths present, that at the Assizes and General-Goal-Delivery of our Lord the King for this County of *Somerset* aforesaid, at *Chard* in the same County, on *Thursday* the 28th Day of *March*, in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of our Lord *Charles the Second*, by the Grace of God of *England, Scotland, France, and Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. before *Robert Foster*, Knt. Chief Justice of our said Lord the King, assigned to hold Pleas before the King, and *Thomas Terrill* Knt. one of the Justices of our said Lord the King, of the Bench of Justices of our said Lord the King, assigned to make the Goal-Delivery of the County aforesaid, of the Prisoners of the same being: The aforesaid Justices the Oath of Allegiance, in *English* called the Oath of Obedience, mentioned and expressed in a certain Act of Parliament of our Lord *James*, late King of *England*, began and held at *Westminster* in the County of *Middlesex*, on the 19th Day of *March*, in the first Year of his Reign over *England, &c.* and over *Scotland* the thirty seventh, and holden by Prorogation at *Westminster* aforesaid, on the 5th Day of *November*, in the third Year of his Reign over *England, France, and Ireland*, and of *Scotland* the thirty ninth, late set forth and provided, intituled, *An Act for the better discovering Popish Recusants*, to *Henry Laver*, of *Yeovill* in the County aforesaid, Husbandman; *Thomas Budd*, late of *Martlock* in the County aforesaid, Clerk; *John Anderton*, alias *Anderdon*, late of *Bridgewater* in the County aforesaid, Yeoman; *John Clement*, late of *Chard* in the County aforesaid; *Thomas Atkins*, late of *Nether-Compton* in the County of *Dorset*, Yeoman; *Peter Hutchins*, of *Horsington* in the County aforesaid, Husbandman; *Henry Pope*, of *Sbington-Beachamp* in the County aforesaid, Parchment-maker; *Richard Benifield*, of *Wincanton* in the County aforesaid, Linen-weaver; *Humphry Yerbury*, of *Froome* in the County aforesaid, Husbandman; and *Thomas Mercer*, late of *Taunton* in the County aforesaid, Petty-Chapman; then and there being, and to every of them then and there being of the Age of eighteen Years, to take and pronounce upon the Holy Gospel of God in the open Assizes aforesaid have tendred, and the Oath aforesaid to them, and every of them, have caused to be read; and the same *Henry Laver, Thomas Budd, John Anderton* alias *Anderdon, John Clement, Thomas Atkins, Peter Hutchins, Henry Pope, Richard Benifield, Humphry Yerbury*, and *Thomas Mercer*, the Oath aforesaid to them, and every of them, in Form aforesaid, by the aforesaid Justices in the open Assizes aforesaid, so as aforesaid then and there tendred to take and pronounce, then and there obstinately, and altogether to take hath refused and denied, against the Peace of our said Lord the King that now is, his Crown and Dignity, and against the Form of the Statute in that Case late made and provided, &c.

" Swanton."

Continued in
Prison.

197 Dis-
charged.

Upon this Indictment they were ordered to remain in Prison till another Assizes; as were also *Thomas Doggett* and *John Clare*. So they were committed, together with *John Scaife, Thomas Saltbouse, John Cruse, William Thomas, William Wallis*, and *William Elliott*; which six were ordered to continue till the next Sessions: All the rest, in Number about one Hundred and ninety seven, were discharged.

At

At the Sessions, on the 23d of the Month called April, the said John Cruse, William Thomas, William Willis, and William Elliott, were set at Liberty; but the Court required Sureties of the other two for their going Home, one into Lancashire, and the other into Westmorland, and for their coming no more into Somersetshire for three Years; These Terms they could not comply with; wherfore Thomas Saltbouse was sent back to Prison, and John Scaife was ordered to the House of Correction as a Vagabond, under a Pretence of his refusing to serve the High-Sheriff for 4*l.* per Annum, tendred him in Court: An Artifice to ensnare him, and prevent his preaching in those Parts. They were detained till the Latter-end of the Month called May, and then enlarged upon the King's Proclamation for setting the Quakers at Liberty

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1661.

Proceedings at
Sessions.

On the 14th of October, Christopher Pittard of Hummer, and on the 24th, John Smith, were sent to Prison for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance. On the 7th of the Month called January, Samuel Curtis was committed for the same Cause, having been taken from a Meeting there, which was broke up by armed Horsemen, who beat the Friends with their naked Swords, and haled and dragged some of them on the Ground with much Violence. Also John Clark of Grinton, Christopher Bacon of Sutton, and John Wall of Edington, were sent to Prison for suffering Meetings at their Houses.

Commitments
for various
Causes.

In the Month called February, Thomas Beard, Richard Lincoln, William Cogan, and William Smith, were committed to Ilchester Prison for absenting themselves from hearing Common-prayer: And for the same Cause, in the next Month, William Shepherd of Walton, and Thomas Tucker of Glastonbury, were also sent to Goal.

In this Year several suffered by Distress of Goods for their Non-attendance at the publick Worship, viz.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
William Thomas, Edith Haggard, John Fudge, Lucy Traverse, Walter Fudge, George Adams, and Jeremy Langdon, to the Value of	3	10	3
William Smith, Edward Cousins, Benjamin Cogan, Richard Lincoln, Thomas Beard, William Elliott, and William Willis, to the Value of	3	12	8
Isaac Wythman, Thomas Paul, Robert Horwood, Walter Giles, and John Frost, to the Value of	2	5	0
	9	7	11

Distresses.

We meet in this Year with a Transaction equally illegal and inhuman, done by Thomas Horsey the Priest of East-Liddiford, whose Character we have before given, pag. 584. This Parson, with others by him employed, seized on the Highway in the said Parish, the Corps of Thomas Lockier of North-Barrow, and took it by Force from his Friends, who were going to interr it in their Burying-place at Limington; they kept the Corps in Liddiford Steeple-house two Nights and a Day, and then buried it in the unconsecrated Part of the Ground called the Church-Yard. The Priest's Pretence for this was a Demand of 6*s.* 8*d.* upon their passing through his Parish.

A barbarous
and illegal
Act of the
Priest of
East-Lid-
diford.

In this Year also, Hugh Drake, of Buckland-Mary, was committed to Prison for proposing some Questions about Tithes to the Priest, who at that Time was prosecuting him for not paying them. William Brean was also imprisoned for saying to Richard Foster, Priest of Long-Ashton, as he was preaching, these Words, Leave off the Traditions of Men, and turn to the Light of Christ. Likewise David Sweet was sent to Prison for fixing on the Market-Cross at Glastonbury some Papers denouncing the Judgments of God against the Sins of the Times. Some for no other Cause than the Omission of paying Hat-bonour to Men deserving none, were assaulted on the Road; as was Christopher Bacon, who was cruelly beaten by one John Stradling, to whom he gave no just Occasion of

Imprisonments
for diverse
Causes.

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1662.

Distresses for
Tithes.

A Letter to
the Judge of
Assize.

17 Indicted
and recom-
mitted.

Imprisonments
for Absence
from the pub-
lick Worship.

Imprisonments
for refusing to
swear.

Imprisonments
for Meeting.

Proceedings at
Wells Assizes.

Offence; and *John Wall*, of *Edington*, who had his Head broke by *Lewis Pierce*, who also threatened to kill him.

We find also taken this Year for Tithes, from *Thomas Smith*, a Cow worth 3*l.* 10*s.* and from *William Beakes*, two Cows worth 10*l.* And that *Christopher Pittard*, of *Hummer*, for a Demand of 4*l.* for Tithes, had Goods taken from him worth 30*l.*

ANNO 1662. On the first Day of this Year, viz. the 25th of the Month called *March*, the Assizes began at *Chard*, when the following Letter was presented, viz.

“ To the JUDGE of Assize, now bolden at *Chard*.

“ **W**HEREAS we, whose Names are hereunto subscribed, were on the 4th Day of *February*, so called, last past, committed to the Common Goal in this County, to be brought forth in order to our Trial: “ We were indicted for being at a Meeting or Conventicle, as they say, with “ several other Things and Circumstances altogether untrue, and being very “ innocent of any evil Intent to any Person or Persons whatsoever, and many “ of us very poor Men, and ignorant of the Law, and do not know what “ Snares or Dangers we may run our selves into, by any Mistake or Nicety, or “ otherwise, in the Law, we do desire we may, according to our Innocency, “ be cleared and discharged from farther Trouble, Suffering or Cost, that “ so we may enjoy our just Liberties, and be capable to provide for our “ Families, and follow our Occasions honestly in the Sight of God and Men.”

Subscribed by fifteen of the following Persons, viz.

John Collings, *William Hodges*, *George Adams*, *Walter Fudge*, *Thomas Budd*, *William Cruse*, *John Munden*, *John Fudge*, *William Beaton*, *Henry Leverett*, *John Leverett*, *Richard Slade*, *Samuel Scott*, *Melchisedec Fever*, *William Pearce*, *John Slade*, and *Samuel Trent*, who had been taken at a Meeting at *Puddimore*, and sent to Prison. At this Assize they were called into Court in the Absence of the Judge, their Indictment read, and they required to give Bail to traverse it at the next Assizes, which they not consenting to, were recommitted to Prison.

In this Year, *William Partridge* and *John Quire*, of *Misterton*; *John Rayson*, *Joane Wallis*, and *Sarah Wallis*, of *Hebruers*, *Elizabeth Wife* of *Thomas Ward*, of *Abbot's-Leigh*; *William Kent*, *John Leworthy*, and *Mary Webster*, of *Porlock*; and *Thomas Stower*, a Servant to *Thomas Hurd*, of *Somerton*, were sent to Goal upon Convictions for not repairing to some Church or Chapel, or other usual Place appointed for bearing Common-prayer.

On the 26th of the Month called *July*, *John Adams*, of *Taunton*; and on the 27th, *Matthew Perrin*, *John Evans jun.* *Nathanael Parke*, *George Clapp*, *William Roach*, *John Denbury*, and *Rice Morris*, taken out of a Meeting at *Hugh Batton's House* in *Taunton*; and on the 30th, *Joseph Milverton*, taken out of his own House; were committed to Prison for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance.

On the 3d of the Month called *August*, *Thomas Horsey*, Priest of *East-Liddiford*, with a Tithing-man and some Soldiers, came to a Meeting there, and by Force haled the Friends out, and would have had them to a Justice, but they refused to go without a Warrant. Next Day the Priest procured a Warrant, by which *Samuel Clothier* of *Alford*, *John Cary* of the same, and *Giles Brook* of *Liddiford*, were committed to *Ilchester Goal*.

On the 8th of the same Month, about thirty Friends, with as many Felons and Malefactors, were conducted from *Ilchester Prison* to the Assizes at *Wells*, which began the next Day, where *Samuel Clothier* and some others were called to the Bar, and had the Oath of Allegiance tendered them; upon Refusal of which, they were recommitted to Prison together with the rest. At the same Assizes,

Assizes, Henry Lambert and Walter Gaste, poor Men, brought thither by an officious Constable, who took them from their Families, were let to the Bar; Gaste was discharged, but Lambert was sent to Goal, to lie there with the others, till another Assizes.

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1662.

On the 30th of the same Month, William Thomas and John Holcomb, of Dulverton, were sent for from their own Houses by a Warrant from a Justice of the Peace, who tendred them the Oath, and sent them to Ilchester; as he did, about the same Time, one William Lyddon, of Wytbell. There were also added to the Number of the Imprisoned this Month, Amos Parsons of Wellington, and Henry Turner and Francis Ferris, of Milverton.

Imprisonments
for refusing to
Swear.

On the 2d of September, Hugh Batton and Thomas Robins were sent to Prison, from a Meeting at Taunton, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance: On the 7th, Isaac Wytbman, Isaac Wytbman jun. Elizabeth Wytbman, Elizabeth Tucker, Elizabeth Davis, John Tucker, Walter Giles, William Stacey, Joane Giles, Susan Paul, Simon Badcock, Robert Giles, Alice Vincent, and Anne Wilmot, being taken in a Meeting at Ilminster, were sent to Prison; the two last mentioned being great with Child, and having left, the one of them four, and the other two small Children at Home: On the 14th, Henry Laver, Samuel Hopkins, Maurice Raymond, John Cordellion, Thomas Hopkins, and Edward Clark, were taken in a Meeting at Trent, and committed for refusing the Oath: On the 15th, William Tolman of Whit-Lackington, and on the 23d, John Goodson of Broad-Merston, taken at religious Meetings, were sent to Prison: As were on the 28th, Andrew Raymond, and James Calway, for refusing to Swear: And on the 31st, Thomas Paul and Mary Webb, were taken out of a religious Assembly, and imprisoned.

For several
Causes.

On the 6th of October, about thirty of this People were brought from Ilchester Goal to Bridgwater Sessions, which was the next Day; at which two Men and nine Women were released; but the rest, after tendring the Oath to some of them, were remitted to Prison.

At Bridge-
water Ses-
sions.

On the 9th of November, a Justice of the Peace, with a Party of armed Horsemen, came to a Meeting, held at John Roman's House in Gregory-Stoke, and took thence thirteen Persons, whom, with seven others they took in the Way thither, he sent to Ilchester Goal; namely, Thomas Cobme, Walter Bult, Gregory Powel, Edward Warner, Jerome Powel, Thomas Powel, James Humphreys, John Croker, Marmaduke Hoskins, John Legge, Hugh Luffe, Thomas Crocker, Jeremy Williams, John Bampton, John Durman, Samuel Deek, George Fackarell, William Grimes, Henry Smith, and John Collier: Soon after their Commitment, two Oxen, which had been Henry Smith's, were seized for the Charges of carrying them to Goal; but those Oxen had been before sold to one of the Neighbours, who, to avoid a Law-suit, paid 2*l.* 2*s.* to redeem what was his own before. They also took a Brass-pot worth 3*l.* for the Charges of carrying one William Liddon to Prison; which having sold, they would have returned him 17*s.* and no more, though the Constable might have had him conducted thither for 5*s.*

Commitments
from a Meet-
ing at Gre-
gory-Stoke.

Illegal Pro-
ceeding.

On the 19th of December, Thomas Parsons was committed for refusing the Oath: And about the same Time, Thomas Leighton, of Cullumpton in Devonshire, travelling between Minehead and Taunton, on his lawful Occasions, was met by Sir Hugh Windham and his Servant, who after asking him some Questions, obliged him to go back about seven Miles to Sir Hugh's House, who though the said Thomas gave an unexceptionable Account of himself and his Business, yet tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, and sent him to Ilchester Goal. On the 28th of the same Month, Benjamin Hopkins, Edward Jacob, Nicholas Pitman, William Waterman, Edward Ryall, and Sampson Watts, were taken from a Meeting at Yarlinton, and carried before a Justice, who, for their refusing to Swear, sent them to Prison.

Arbitrary
Commitments.

At the Sessions at Wells, whither forty one of the Prisoners called Quakers were conveyed, the last named six were fined 20*s.* each, eight were discharged, and the others returned to Prison.

Proceedings at
a Session at
Wells.

In

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Distresses.

In this Year were taken for Fines, for Absence from the National Worship, Goods to the Value here under-mentioned, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
From Edward Cousens, Richard Lincoln, Hugh Drake, James Calway, Thomas Beard, Walter Robins, and Daniel Wyatt	2	0	0
Alice Cheshick, Nicholas Pitman, Sampson Watts, William Daw, Richard Bull, Michael Corp, and Richard Benifield	3	12	4
Deborah Higden, Margaret Lye, Isaac Bart, William Willis, Thomas Parsons, and William Beakes	3	4	8
	8	17	0

Imprisonments
for refusing to
pay Tithes.

In this Year the following Persons, for refusing to pay Tithes, were committed to Prison, viz. Thomas Parsons of Portishead, and Thomas Beard of Crewkerne: Mellieur Keene and Mellieur Kinglake, Widows; the former having five, and the latter two Children; at the Suit of one Colbert, Farmer of the Tithes of Middlezoy Parish: Also George Harris, of Rhyne-Intrinfeca in the County of Dorset, at the Suit of John Elford, Priest: And Walter Robins and Daniel Wyatt, at the Suit of the Priest of Buckland-Mary.

In this Year also, John Anderdon was fined at the Assizes for coming into the Court with his Hat on.

Cruelty of a
Priest to his
Son a Quaker.

ANNO 1663. We have several Times before mentioned Thomas Horsey, Priest of East-Liddiford, a Man no less furious in Zeal for the Church, than immoral in his Conversation. This Man had a Son named John Horsey, a sober young Man, who having served an Apprenticeship at London, was there convinced of the Truth of the Quakers Principles: He came into the Country to visit his Father and Mother, but his Father refused to entertain him, and turned him out of Doors, with terrible Threatnings. Soon after, the young Man was under a religious Concern to go to the Steeple-house at Somerton, when his Father was officiating there, and to proclaim Repentance to him and the People; upon which his Father caused him to be apprehended and sent to Ilchester Goal, about the 29th of the Month called March; and at the Sessions used the utmost of his Endeavours to have persuaded the Justices to send him to Bridewell, but they would not; for the impetuous Temper, and unnatural Cruelty of the Priest, instead of provoking the Magistrates against his Son, excited their Compassion toward him, so that they set him at Liberty.

William Thomas, of Dulverton, was committed to Prison by the following Mittimus, viz.

“ Somersset /s.

“ To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal at Ilchester in the said County.

Mittimus of
W. Thomas
to Prison.

“ W H E R E A S William Thomas, of Dulverton in the County aforesaid, doth, under Pretence of religious Worship, oftentimes assemble in great Numbers in several Parts, raising Sedition against the true and sincere Religion of God in the Kingdom established, and to the great endangering of the publick Peace; which Kind of Meetings ought not at any Time to be suffered, but effectually proceeded against, as the Law has directed. And for that it hath been proved unto us upon Oath, that the said William Thomas hath maliciously disturbed Walter Bickham, of Dulverton aforesaid, Minister, in doing the Service of God. These are therefore requiring you, in his Majesty's Name, the said William Thomas to receive and take into your safe Custody, and him to keep for the Space of three Months, and not deliver until he shall be thence delivered by due Order and Course of Law.

Hereof

" Hereof fail not at your Peril. Given under our Hands and Seals at
 " *Dulverton* aforesaid, the 9th Day of *August*, in the fifteenth Year of the Reign
 " of our Sovereign Lord *Charles the Second* over *England*, Anno; Dom. 1663.

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" ROBERT HAWLEY,
 " GEORGE SIDENHAM."

By this ill-worded *Mittimus*, both deficient in Sense, and untrue in Fact, was the Man's Liberty sacrificed; though in Truth he had neither done nor said any Thing to disturb the Minister, but only stood still while he was preaching. The sole Offence probably was the keeping of his Hat on.

At the Assizes held at *Chard*, in the Month called *April* this Year, about thirty five of this People were brought into Court; of whom fifteen, indicted at a former Assizes, were call'd to Trial; thirteen of them appeared, two being left in Prison sick: They were fined 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* each, and remanded to Prison till Payment; where one of them, *George Adams*, died about three Weeks after. Eighteen others had the Oath tendred them, and refusing to take it, were recommitted till another Assizes. In the same Month, at *Ilchester* Sessions, those twenty Persons, before mentioned to have been taken at *Gregory-Stoke* Meeting in *November* 1662, were fined 20*s.* each, and set at Liberty; as were also twelve others. At a Sessions at *Taunton*, in the Month called *July*, *Thomas King* of *Crewkerne*, after some Time of Imprisonment for being at a Meeting, was discharged.

Proceedings at
 Chard Assizes.

Death of
 G. Adams
 in Prison.

Proceedings at
 Ilchester and
 Taunton Ses-
 sions.

At *Taunton* Assizes in the Month called *August*, the several Persons following, being convicted of refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, received Sentence of *Premunire*; namely, *John Cary*, *Thomas Budd*, *John Collins*, *Matthew Perrin*, *Joseph Pearce*, *John Evans*, *Nathanael Parke*, *George Clapp*, *William Roche*, *Henry Turner*, *John Denbury*, *Amos Parsons*, *Rice Morris*, *Andrew Raymond*, *Henry Lambert*, and *Giles Brooke*.

16 Received
 Sentence of
 Premunire.

In the same Month, *Gregory Ceely* and *Edward Durham*, of *North-Curry*, were brought to *Ilchester* Goal upon an Attachment out of the *Exchequer*, at the Suit of their Parish-Priest: Also *Daniel Wyatt* and *William Collins*, were imprisoned by a *Capias* on a *Significavit* out of the Bishop's Court at *Wells*: And upon a like *Significavit*, *Christopher Pittard* had been committed about two Months before.

Imprisonments
 for Tithes.

In *September*, *Henry Clothier* of *East-Liddiford*, being in his Fields, was arrested for Tithes by Bayliffs, at the Suit of *Thomas Horsley* Priest, who came with the Officers, and would not suffer them to give him the Liberty of binding up, or driving Home his Load of Corn, nor of going to his House to fetch any Necessaries, but had him hurried away to Prison immediately, and afterwards gave out such threatening Words among the neighbouring Workmen, that none dare assist in getting in the said *Henry's* Corn, or threshing it out, so that it lay long in the Field in Danger of being spoiled.

Hard Suffer-
 ing of H.
 Clothier.

On the 6th of *October*, at *Taunton* Sessions, *Thomas Coombe* the Elder, of *Gregory-Stoke*, was presented for being at an unlawful Assembly, and required to give Bail to answer it at the next Sessions, which he refusing, was sent to *Ilchester* Prison; whither had been sent about a Week before, *Thomas Roche* of *Ilminster*, for the same Cause. To that Sessions also were brought *Nathanael Gage* and *Elizabeth* his Wife, *William Stacey*, *Humphry Wilmot*, and *John Cheeke*, all of *Ilminster*, by Warrant from a Justice of the Peace, for being at a Meeting two Weeks before; but upon Enquiry it appeared, that they had not been at any Meeting for nine Months before, so they were acquitted; as were also *Hugh Luff* and *John Bampton*, brought thither after the same Manner.

Proceedings
 at Taunton
 Sessions.

On the 8th of *October*, *John Penkard*, of *Keinsbam*, was brought to *Ilchester* Goal by an Attachment out of the *Exchequer* for Tithes. And on the 18th of *November*, *Thomas Hemborough*, *Elizabeth Lea*, and *Joane Coombe*, all of *Gregory-Stoke*, were arrested for Tithes, and soon after sent to the same Prison. The

Grievous
 Prosecutions
 of poor Wi-
 dows and
 others for
 Tithes.

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Condition of these three might have moved Compassion; *Thomas Hemborough* being a poor Man with a Wife and three Children: The Widow *Lea* had six Children, five of whom she left in a destitute Circumstance, and the sixth being a sucking Infant, she carried with her to Prison; the Tithes demanded of her not amounting to 25 s. The other Widow had five Children, and was so very poor, that her Brother *Thomas Coombe*, then also a Prisoner for his religious Testimony, had formerly in Charity kept two of them: She had only two Acres of Ground, the Tithes of which was usually sold for 8 s. But the rigid Exactors of Tithes are too often void of common Humanity, and can without Reluctance behold the Destruction of the Fatherless and the Widow. In the same Month also, *John Clotbier*, of *East-Liddiford*, was committed to Prison, at the Suit of Priest *Horsey* before mentioned. In this Year *John Bull*, of *Chew-magna*, had taken from him by the Parish-Priest and his Agents, Corn, Instruments of Husbandry, and Household Goods, which some Persons, Confederates with the Priest, appraised at 29 l. 18 s. though really worth 63 l. 12 s. 4 d. *John Cox* had also a large Quantity of Corn taken from him for Tithes: And *Edmund Beakes*, of *Blackwell*, for the same Cause, suffered Distress of a Mare worth 7 l.

On the 22d of November, *Thomas King* and *Samuel Curtis*, taken at a Meeting at *Hazelborough*, were sent to Prison upon the Evidence of two or three Soldiers.

In this Year also, Distresses were made on the Goods of *Florence Beasley*, *Thomas Bryan*, *Isaac Bryan*, *Josiah Nichols*, *Nathanael Strode*, *Abraham Clotbier*, *Nathanael Bryan*, and *Edmund Beakes*, to the Value of 2 l. 10 s. 3 d. for absenting themselves from the National Worship: *Thomas Jefferies* had also his Goods taken from him for the same Cause.

In this and the two foregoing Years, after Process against them in the Ecclesiastical Court, the following Persons were excommunicated, viz. *Henry Moore*, *John Hubbard*, *William Wride*, and *William Petherham*, all of *Burnham*; *John Petherham* of *South-Brent*, *Nicholas Keele* of *Lympham*, and *William Wride* of *Mark*. Diverse also were excommunicated for not going to hear Common-prayer.

That our Reader may have the clearer Idea of the Innocence, Courage, and Constancy of this People in their Sufferings, we shall transcribe the Copies of two Letters written by the Prisoners at *Ilchester*; the one to their Friends in *Newgate, London*, viz.

“ *Ilchester Prison in Somersetshire, the 22d of the Ninth Month 1663.*

“ *Dear Friends and Brethren!*

A Letter from
the Prisoners
at Ilchester
to their Friends
in Newgate,
London.

“ **C**ompanions in Tribulation, Fellow-Sufferers for the Testimony of Jesus,
“ and Prisoners for the Hope of *Israel*, which never makes ashamed:
“ We your Fellow-Servants, and Members of the Body which edifieth it self
“ in Love, and counted worthy to be Sufferers with you in Bonds for the
“ Testimony, do in the Singleness of our Hearts, and Fervency of Love,
“ yea, in the Fellowship of his Sufferings who is our Life, and also in the
“ Unity of the one Spirit, hereby salute and embrace you. O ye dearly
“ beloved of the Lord, and Servants of the Most High God, whom our
“ Heavenly Father hath crowned with his Eternal Presence, and Everlasting
“ Arm, in the Midst of you. Verily when we behold the Greatness of your
“ Service, the Weight of your Sufferings, and the Sharpness of your Trials,
“ our Hearts are even melted, and our Bowels turned within us, and how can
“ we but in a true Sympathy, as living Members, both mourn and suffer
“ with you? Yet when we behold the Arm of our God, which is now
“ stretched over you, and your Constancy in your Testimony, our Souls
“ breath forth Praises to God for you; and truly the Fame and Report of
“ your Boldness and Fidelity which is gone forth, even strengthens the weak
“ Hands, and confirms the feeble Knees, and adds Life and Resolution to a
“ Remnant

“Remnant to follow you in the same Tribulation, Sufferings, and Patience,
 “as in the good Will and Pleasure of our Heavenly Father they may be
 “called thereunto.
 “And as a Testimony thereof, we judge it meet at this Time to ac-
 “quaint you with the present Condition of Friends here, who at this Time
 “bear a Share in Suffering. Here is in this Place about an Hundred of us
 “Prisoners, (besides nineteen *Baptists*) fifteen of us were imprisoned near two
 “Months before the Spring Assizes, for meeting together to worship God,
 “which was the Cause signified upon the *Mittimus*; and at the Assizes we
 “were called and indicted, who desired our Trial according to Law, we
 “being innocent Men, but were demanded to put in Bail to traverse our
 “Indictment the next Assizes, but we refused and desired present Trial, which
 “according to Law we ought to have had, but it was denied us, and we
 “returned Prisoners again for refusing to give Bail, where we were kept till
 “the Assizes following, at which we were brought forth again, with many
 “more, who in the mean Time were taken up; some of whom were taken
 “from their Houses; all which attended as Prisoners at the last Assizes, and
 “could not obtain a Trial, except five, who were called the first Day of the
 “Assizes, and never more called, though promised in Court to be called
 “again, but turned back again Prisoners, and one more who was brought into
 “Court with his Hat on, and for that was indicted and fined, without due
 “Trial, 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* no Law nor Reason shewn him to convince him that
 “the Wearing of his Hat was a Transgression, though desired by the Prisoner
 “in the Court: And so all Friends were returned to Prison again. We who
 “had formerly been indicted were returned again for want of Bail, and others
 “returned again to Prison, though never called, to be kept without Bail till
 “the next Sessions, where we are all continued to this Day: And before the
 “last Sessions here were brought to Prison eighteen Friends, *viz.* nine Men
 “and nine Women; the Women were discharged again and one Man, and
 “the rest returned again. Here was very lately sent to Prison from one
 “Meeting, one and twenty Friends, by him who is called Sir *John Warre*,
 “who is now the High-Sheriff of this County: He also sent at the same
 “Time sixteen *Baptists*. Besides, many Friends have suffered great Spoiling of
 “Goods, and very many are of late cited to their Spiritual Courts as a Testi-
 “mony against them. And although many, as to visible Appearance in the
 “Outward, are scarce a Step from Ruin; yet this we can testify to the Praise
 “of our God for ever, that we have not followed him in vain, for he daily
 “manifesteth his Strength in Weakness, and is perfecting Praise out of the
 “Mouths of his Babes, who have not hitherto shrunk in the Day of Trial,
 “nor one amongst them found that hath turned his Back, for Truth is still
 “honourable among them, and the Love retained and increased in which it
 “was received. And truly it is the Desire of our Hearts in the Sight of
 “God, that we may be always found faithful to him, who by his Grace hath
 “called us, that we may glorify him in Bonds or Liberty, Life or Death.
 “Wherefore, O ye beloved of the Lord, cease not to make mention of us
 “in your Prayers, that nothing may move or shake us from that Hope
 “whereof we are called to be Witnesses, nor separate us from that Love and
 “Life which is now revealed in us, but that in Faithfulness to the Lord, Union
 “and Fellowship with the Saints in Light, we may be preserved to the End,
 “in which we dearly salute and embrace you all, and remain

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“Your Dear Brethren and Fellow-Prisoners for the Testimony
 “of JESUS, and Hope of Israel.

“JOHN ANDERDON, HENRY GUNDRY,
 “MATTHEW PERRIN, JASPER BATT,
 “WILLIAM BEATON.”

This

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A Letter from
the Prisoners
to the King.

This Letter favours of the Humility, Patience, and Resignation of faithful Sufferers, and of that fervent Love which the Persecuted, for the Testimony of Christ and a good Conscience, bear one towards another, praying for each others Preservation, and final Perseverance to the End of their Hope, the Salvation of their Souls.

The other Letter, or Address, was written to the King when at Bath, and is as follows;

FORASMUCH, O King! as our daily Sufferings are augmented, and our Number in this Place so greatly increased, as that we cannot any longer well hold our Peace, but do in the Fear of God, and in true Humility in his Sight, in all Lowliness of Mind, after long Imprisonment, present thee, in this thy Progress and Day of Prosperity, with our grievous Sufferings for our Conscience in Things relating to God; our Souls being subject to the Lord that made Heaven and Earth: And against thee, O King! have we not done or imagined Evil, but do, according to the Truth and Righteousness in our Hearts, desire thy Peace and Prosperity, and that Mercy may establish thy Throne in Equity and Justice. And whereas we who are called *Quakers*, because of the Fear of God, and to keep our Consciences void of Offence, cannot take any Oath, many of us are by a severe Sentence deprived of all the Goods we have in this World, and our Wives and innocent Children thereby exposed to utter Ruin, unless the Execution thereof be prevented; and others by Fines beyond their Abilities, adjudged to perpetual Imprisonment, and that for Matter of pure Conscience only, and not for any Design of Evil, or Wrong, intended towards thee, O King! or any of thy Subjects, as hath been largely testified by many Years Experience, through many Trials and Hardships, in Bonds, wherein the Lord hath been with us, and preserved us innocent and upright in our Hearts toward thee, and for this we appeal to the Witness of God in all Men, whether we have not so approved our selves to this Day, in the Sight of God and Men. And as an Addition to our present Sufferings, the Goaler's Cruelty so abounds, that many of us are likely to be exposed to Famishment, and utter Destruction, being thrust together in such a great Number, and denied such necessary Accommodation, as is ordinarily given to the worst of Men, besides what is daily farther threatned. We therefore, as to our outward Man, being Objects of thy Mercy and Clemency, it being in thy Hands to dispose of us at thy Pleasure, do in all due Submission make our Appeal unto thee, as unto one who is able to relieve us: And the Lord open thy Heart to consider our Innocency and Distress, and to acquit us from our grievous Sentences, and other our Imprisonment. And it is the Desire of our Hearts, that in Truth and Righteousness the God of Peace may prosper thee to reign: And what Profit will the Death of the Innocent be to the King?

From the Prisoners called Quakers,
in Ilchester, this 4th Day of the Seventh Month 1663. Subscribed by thirty of the Prisoners.

This Letter, or Address, discovers an innocent Simplicity, attended with Christian Courage, expressing a decent Submission void of Flattery, and professing all due Allegiance and peaceful Subjection to the King and his Government, with a noble and stedfast Resolution of keeping their Consciences undefiled and void of Offence toward God. This is the Stile of true Christian Confessors, whom the Perfect Fear of God hath exalted above an abject and servile Departure from his Commandments, in Conformity to the Laws of any Power upon Earth.

ANNO 1664. On the 7th of the Month called May, Katharine Evans and Sarah Chevers, Women who travelled in the Work of the Gospel, came to

to *Minehead* from *Ireland*: A few Days after, passing to their Dwelling at *Bath*, they had a Meeting with some of their Friends at *Wivelscomb*: The Mayor, with some rude Attendants, came and roughly broke up the Meeting, setting a Guard upon the House all Night, who behaved themselves very abusively both in Words and Actions: Next Day the Friends were had before the Mayor and another Justice, who after they had searched them, and taken from *Sarah* and *Katharine* several Letters, and opened them, though they found nothing therein but private Affairs, yet refused to return them. They also sent the Women to Prison, together with *William Lyddon*, *John Pruse*, *William Bond*, and *William Thorne*, whom the Keeper of the Prison put into the Dungeon.

In this Year *John Clark*, of *Grinton*, was proceeded against for Tithes, so clandestinely, that before he knew any Thing of the Prosecution, he was outlawed, and an Execution served, whereby they took from him Cattle to the Value of 22*l*. The Outlawry was obtained by a false Return of *Non est inventus*, whenas he was constantly and publicly about his Business near Home, and at Markets and Fairs, frequently in Sight of the Priest, his next Neighbour, who prosecuted him. He was also, by the same Priest, prosecuted in the Bishop's Court, and excommunicated.

About this Time were imprisoned for Tithes, *John Petherton*, *George Harris*, and *Richard Harditch*. About which Time *Tristram Gundry*, after five Years Imprisonment for Tithes, was set at Liberty.

Hard was the Case of *William Collins*, who suffered above a Year's Imprisonment for Tithes of a very little Corn. He was a poor Man, had a Wife and six small Children, who, by Reason of his Imprisonment, were obliged to retire to her Father's House at *Buckland*, where *Francis Hatbway*, the Priest who prosecuted her Husband, also dwelt. The Priest stirred up the Officers of the Parish against the Woman and her Children, so that by an Order of the Justices they were removed to *Combe*, where the Officers of the Parish would not receive them, but procured a Counter-Order, and carried them again to *Buckland*, where, though her Father would willingly have entertained them, the Parish-Officers would not suffer him, so that the poor Woman and her Babes were constrained to lie in the Streets. All this was occasioned by the Malice of the Priest, a Man, who in regard to Religion, seemed only to pursue his own Interest, for he had been a Priest at *Wytball* in *Oliver Cromwell's* Time, and turning with the Times, at the King's Restoration obtained the Benefice of *Buckland*.

In this Year *John Cox* suffered Distress of Goods for not paying toward the Repairs of the Steeple-house; as did likewise, *Lucy Higgins*, of *Farlington*.

In this Year also, *Henry Laver*, *Richard Coggan*, *Thomas Parsons*, and *John Anderdon*, for 2*d*. each, demanded of them for *Easter-Offerings*, were excommunicated; as were also, *John Deane* and *John Pearce*, both of *Bridge-water*, for a Demand of 4*d*. from each of them. Also *Michael Corpe*, for not paying Tithes, suffered by Distress of his Corn.

On the 14th of the Month called *March* this Year, *John Evans* died a Prisoner, under Sentence of *Premunire*, for his Obedience to the Precept of Christ, *Swear not at all*.

ANNO 1665. On the 17th of the Month called *April*, *William Beakes*, of *Backwell*, was committed to Prison for Tithe, at the Suit of his Parish-Priest. And in the same Year, *John Sage* of *Chewton*, *Henry Moore* of *Clevedon*, *Robert Russel*, *Jeffery Rumney*, and *Melchizedec Fever*, were also imprisoned for Tithes.

ANNO 1666. Taken this Year, by Distress, for Tithes,

	l.	s.	d.	
From <i>Mary Tyler</i> of <i>Walton</i> , Corn worth	4	0	0	Distresses for Tithes.
<i>Henry Gundry</i> , Cattle worth	30	0	0	
<i>Jonathan Tucker</i> , Cattle worth	32	0	0	
<i>Tristram Gundry</i> , Corn and Cattle worth	7	0	0	
<i>Arthur Gundry</i> , Goods worth	12	10	0	

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE,
1664.

Imprisonment
of K. Evans,
S. Chevers,
and others.

Outlawry ob-
tained by a
false Return.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

Hard Case of
W. Collins
and his Family,
through the
Malice of a
Priest.

A Time-serv-
ing Priest.

Sufferings for
Steeple-house
Rates, Easter-
Offerings, &c.

Death of
J. Evans,
a Prisoner.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1666.

Imprison-
ments.

In this Year also were imprisoned in *Ilchester* Goal for Tithes, *John Harding* of *Markon*, at the Suit of Priest *Jessip*: *Richard Jefferies*, at the Suit of Captain *John Aubery*, Impropiator: *John Cole* and *John Sage*, both of *Chewton*, and the latter about eighty Years of Age, at the Suit of *Anne Kingmill*, Impropiatrix: *Henry Gundry* and *Tristram Gundry*, of *Street*, on an Attachment out of the *Exchequer*, at the Suit of *William Stroud*.

James Budd and *Richard Penny*, were sent to Prison by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

“ *Somerſet ſs.*

Mittimus of
J. Budd and
R. Penny
to *Ilchester*
Goal.

“ I Send you herewithal the Bodies of *James Budd*, of *Weymouth*, and *Richard Penny*, of *Bradford* in the County of *Dorſet*, who were taken at a Con-
“ venticle this 2d of *September*, at the House of *Robert Anns*, of *West-Mudford*
“ in the ſaid County, who have refuſed to take the Oath of Allegiance, or
“ to ſubmit to any Fine impoſed on them according to the Statute in that
“ Caſe made and provided. Theſe are therefore, in his Maſteſty's Name,
“ ſtrictly to charge and command you to receive the ſaid *James Budd* and
“ *Richard Penny* into your ſaid Goal, and them there ſafely to keep for the
“ Space of three Months from the Day of the Date hereof. Whereof fail
“ you not, as you will answer at your Peril. Given under my Hand and
“ Seal this 2d Day of *September* 1666.

“ *FRA. WINDHAM.*”

By this *Mittimus* they were convey'd to *Ilchester*, and delivered to the Cuſ-
tody of the Goaler, having firſt had their Coats taken off their Backs for the
Charges of carrying them thither.

In the ſame Month was alſo iſſued the following *Mittimus*, viz.

“ *Somerſet ſs.*

“ *To the Keeper of the Houſe of Correction at Ilcheſter.*

Mittimus of
four Perſons
for Meeting.

“ FORASMUCH as the Perſons, whoſe Names are here under-
“ written, are convicted before us for being at a Conventicle, the 2d Day
“ of this Inſtant *September*, at the Houſe of *Robert Clark*, of *Mudford* in the
“ County aforeſaid, contrary to the Statute in that Caſe provided: Theſe
“ are therefore, in his Maſteſty's Name, to will and require you to receive the
“ ſaid Perſons herewith ſent into your Cuſtody, and them to keep for the
“ Space of ninety Days to hard Labour, except they, or either of them,
“ reſpectively, ſhall pay us, or one of us, the Sum of five Pounds, to be diſ-
“ tributed according to the ſaid Act of Parliament: And at the End of ninety
“ Days you are to deliver them to the Keeper of his Maſteſty's Goal at *Il-*
“ *cheſter*, who is hereby required to receive them for reſuſing to take the Oath
“ of Allegiance, and them to keep until they ſhall be from thence delivered
“ by due Courſe of Law. Hereof fail you not at your Perils. Given under
“ our Hands and Seals the 24th Day of *September*, Anno 1666.

“ *SIMON CLARK,*

WILLIAM BROOK,

“ *JOHN MORGAN,*

THOMAS LONG,

“ *EDWARD PHILIPPS jun.*

WILLIAM HELLIAH.”

This Warrant was accordingly put in Execution, and the Priſoners above-
named were committed as therein directed.

Commitments
for reſuſing
to Swear.

On the 28th of *September*, *John Andrews*, of *Limington*, was committed to
Ilchester Goal for reſuſing to take the Oath of Allegiance; as was alſo, on the
18th of *November*, *Wenlock Chriſtiſon*, of *Sutton*, for the ſame Cauſe.

Taken

Taken this Year by Distress, for Absence from the National Worship, from *John Banton, John Dory, and Lucy Higgins*, Goods worth 1 l. 6 s.

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1667.

ANNO 1667. In this Year were imprisoned at *Ilchester* for Tithes, *John Hilbert, William Petherham, and William Wrides*, on an Outlawry, at the Suit of *Thomas Mompesson*: *Gregory Ceely*, at the Suit of *Robert Hill*, Tithe-farmer: *William Beakes*, at the Suit of *Joseph Cresconill*, Priest of *Backwell*: *Mary Clotbier* and *Samuel Clotbier*, at the Suit of *Thomas Earl*, Priest of *Alford*: *John Pinkerd*, on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, at the Suit of *Thomas Codrington*, Priest of *Keirsham*: And *Edmund Beakes*, at the Suit of *John Harris*, Tithe-farmer of *Portishead*.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

Henry Clotbier and *George Jacob* were committed to *Taunton Castle*, at the Suit of *Thomas Horsey*, Priest of *Liddisford*.

On the 23d of the Month called *August* this Year, *William Hodges* died a Prisoner at *Ilchester*, after six Years and ten Weeks Confinement there, for his religious Testimony.

Death of
W. Hodges
in Prison.

In this Year were taken, for their assembling to worship God, from *William Martin, Thomas Loscomb, and Mary Langdon*, Goods worth 18 s.

Distresses for
Meeting.

ANNO 1668. Taken in this Year, for Tithes, from *John Clotbier*, of *East-Liddisford*, Goods worth 3 l.

The following Persons were this Year imprisoned for Tithes, viz. *Thomas Brain* of *Shipton-Mallet*, at the Suit of *Samuel Horner*, Impropriator: *Edward Shilcock*, a poor Man, for 2 s. 6 d. at the Suit of *Samuel Willan*, Priest of *Weston-super-Mare*: *Marmaduke Coate* of *Curry-Rivel*, at the Suit of *Stephen Mann*, Vicar of that Place: *John Dando, Thomas Dando, and Richard Hill*, at the Suit of *Thomas Hodges*, of *High-Littleton*, Impropriator.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

On the 3d of the Month called *March* this Year, *Henry Leverick* laid down his Life in Prison at *Ilchester*, under Sentence of *Premunure*, for his Obedience to the Precept of Christ in refusing to Swear.

Death of
H. Leverick
in Prison.

ANNO 1669. Taken this Year by Distress, for their religious Constancy in assembling together for Worship,

	l.	s.	d.	
From <i>John Clotbier</i> , of <i>East-Liddisford</i> , Goods worth	0	14	0	Distresses for Meeting, and for Tithes.
<i>Eleanor Jacob</i> , of the same	0	8	0	
<i>John Andrews</i> , of <i>Limington</i>	0	10	0	
<i>Thomas Whitehead</i> and <i>William Dawes</i> , of <i>North-Cadbury</i>	1	0	0	
	2	12	0	

Taken also for Tithes,

From <i>John Clotbier</i> and <i>Eleanor Jacob</i> , Corn worth	3	13	0
<i>John Gayland, Gregory Ceely, and Thomas Whitehead</i>	3	10	0
	7	3	0

Imprisoned this Year for Tithes, *John Martin* and *Edith Haggard*, at the Suit of one *Brooks*, Priest of *Weston-Bampfild*: *William Mayes* of *Worrill*, at the Suit of *Thomas Starr* and one *Franklin*, Impropriators: *Daniel Wyatt* and *Bartholomew Alford*, of *Buckland-Mary*, at the Suit of *Francis Hathway*, Priest: And *Elizabeth Lea*, at the Suit of *George Bantwell*, a Proctor in *Gregory-Stoke*.

Imprison-
ments.

Thomas Gully and *Jasper Batt*, were this Year committed to *Taunton Castle* for Tithes.

ANNO 1670. The Parliament in this Year passed another Act against Conventicles, by which great Encouragement was given to the Informers, who being generally idle and dissolute Persons, chose rather to live on the Spoil of their Neighbours, than by honest Labour and Industry. Hence it was that the Sufferings of this People, for religiously assembling to worship God, were much increased. Distresses were large and numerous in this County; to express which,

Distresses for
Meetings,
throughout
this County,
very many
and great.

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1670.

which, as succinctly and intelligibly as we can, we have distinguished them by the several Places where the Meetings in those Times were usually held, viz. Yeovil, Portbutt, Publoe, Long-Sutton, South-Cadbury, Crewkberne, Wythell, Burnham, Bridgwater, Taunton, Gregory-Stoke, Middlezoy, and Hummer.

I. YEOVIL Meeting.

1. Yeovil
Meeting.

On the 7th of the Month called June, a Justice of the Peace, named *Helliar*, with Officers and Soldiers, came to a Meeting then at the House of *Henry Lavor*, and drew the Friends out, and conducted them to an Inn. In the Street, as they passed, *Thomas Whitehead* exhorted the People to repent and fear God, for which he was fined 20*l.* as a Preacher, sent to the *Blind-house* Prison, and charged with seducing the King's Subjects. His Wife, *Jane Whitehead*, also uttered some Words of Exhortation to the People, for which the Justice fined her 20*l.* and when it was pleaded in her Behalf, that the Words of the Act, *Every Person who shall take upon him to preach*, did not extend to the Women, the Justice deridingly answered, *Where the Letter of the Act is defective, I will take the Spirit of it.*

They also fined *Henry Lavor* 20*l.* for his House, and others 5*s.* each; which Fines were levied partly on the Persons themselves, and partly on others present at the same Meeting. For that and other Meetings, held at Yeovil this Year, the following Distresses were made, viz.

	Goods worth		
	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Taken from <i>Thomas Whitehead</i> , of South-Cadbury	6	5	0
<i>John Allen</i> of Hummer	24	0	0
<i>John Andrews</i> , of Limington, for one Half of <i>Jane Whitehead's</i> Fine	21	0	0
<i>Marmaduke Coate</i> , of Hambridge, for the other Half of <i>Jane Whitehead's</i> Fine	20	0	0
<i>Mary Lavor</i> , Mother of <i>Henry Lavor</i> , for his aforesaid Fine for the Meeting-house	20	14	0
<i>Thomas Loscomb</i> , of <i>Queen's-Camel</i> , for himself, his Son <i>Jonathan Loscomb</i> , and his Servant <i>Matthew Bendall</i>	2	0	0
<i>John King</i> , a poor Day-Labourer, his wearing Apparel	3	3	0
<i>John Allen</i> , of Trent, for himself, his Wife, and Children	1	4	0
<i>Edward Prankerd</i> , <i>Christopher Pittard</i> , <i>William Waterman</i> , <i>John Waterman</i> , and <i>George King</i> .	2	6	10
<i>Richard Sutton</i> , <i>Jane Muster</i> , and <i>George Muster</i>	1	17	0
<i>Christopher Moore</i> , <i>Samuel Swetnam</i> , <i>Anne Swetnam</i> , <i>Anne Swetnam jun.</i> and <i>Elizabeth Napper</i> , all of Yeovil.	5	5	6
<i>John Windsor</i> , <i>John Windsor jun.</i> <i>John King</i> , <i>John Vivian</i> , for himself and <i>Mary</i> his Wife	17	3	11
<i>Abraham Atkins</i> of Martock, <i>Hester Long</i> , <i>Giles Jordan</i> , <i>Henry Lavor</i> , and <i>Jane</i> his Wife	4	15	9
<i>Robert Rudge</i> , of Berwick, for himself and <i>Sarah</i> his Wife	1	0	0
	130	15	0

When

When *Mary Laver*, who was not at the Meeting, was unjustly distrained on for her Son's Fine, she appealed to the *Quarter Sessions*, but instead of getting Relief, was obliged to sit down with an additional Loss of 9*l*. 12*s*. Cost on the Appeal. The Court, in her Case, were misled by Justice *Helliar*, who, when *John Allen* was fined 10*l*. ordered the Informer to take ten of his best Cows for that Fine, and he himself would be the Purchaser. When *Thomas Loscomb* had his Goods, worth 40*s*. exposed to Sale, the Priest of *Queen's-Camel* sent his Servant, who bought them for 15*s*. Thus the Justices, and the Priests, too often interested themselves in having the *Quakers* Goods under-rated.

At one of those Meetings, on the 5th of the Month called *July*, the Informers afterward swore against six Persons who were not present, viz. *Giles Brook* of *Mudford*, *Robert King* of *Berwick*, and his Wife, *Nicholas Martin*, *Mary Windsor*, Wife of *John Windsor jun.* and *Joane Pittard*. These Names, though they were not at the Meeting, were included amongst those convicted, in the following Warrant, viz.

“ *Somerset* 1*s*.

“ **W**HEREAS the several Persons under-named were convicted before me, by the Oaths of *Christopher Reekes* and *Thomas Hole*, for being at an unlawful Conventicle in *Yeovil Church-Yard* on *Tuesday* the 5th Day of *July* last past, and diverse of them having been formerly convicted since the late Act of Parliament for suppressing such seditious Meetings, whereby they have incurred double the first Penalty: These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to will and require you, immediately on Sight hereof, to demand the several Sums of the several Persons here under-written, being Fines imposed on them for being present at an unlawful Conventicle at the Time and Place before mentioned, and upon Refusal to pay their several Fines, to levy the same by Distress and Sale of their several Goods so refusing, rendering the Overplus, if any be, and the Money so paid or levied to bring to me, to be distributed according as the said Act directs: And for so doing this shall be your Warrant. Given under my Hand and Seal this 2d Day of *September* 1670.

Warrant.

“ **EDWARD PHILIPPS.**”

Thus heedlessly did the Informers proceed, swearing at all Adventures upon meer Surmise, which in this Case was utterly inexcusable, because the Door of the Meeting-house opened into the Ground called the *Church-Yard*, where the Friends assembled, being shut out of their usual Place of Meeting, and it was very easy for the Informers to have seen who were there.

Random Informers.

II. **PORTSHUTT Meeting.**

Goods worth

2. Portshutt Meeting.

Taken from *Thomas Parsons*, of *Portshutt*, for Meetings at his House

James Hobbs, *Robert Bullock*, and *Edmund Beakes*

Thomas Griffin, a poor lame Man

Edward Wallis, for himself and his Wife

John Long and *Jeffery Rumney*

Thomas Hodds, all his Cattle

William Thomaline, an old Man, sick and lame

James Carter, *Thomas Stevens*, and *John Purle*

Samuel Hipsley, *Anne Plaice*, and *Benjamin Tizard*

Henry Moore and *William Beakes*, both of *Backwell*

Hannah Hobbs and *James Worme*

William Gaylard, of *Clevedon*

1 31 0
63 0 0
32 19 0
5 16 0
1 10 0
8 18 0
27 5 0
0 5 0
1 12 6
11 3 0
19 9 0
2 19 3
1 10 0

166 6 9

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1678.

The before-named *Thomas Parsons* was convicted for several Meetings at his House, upon the Oaths of Informers who were not at those Meetings, but swore to them only upon seeing People pass to and from his House. When the Officers expoiled some of his Cattle, and a Mare and a Colt of *James Hobbs*, to Sale at *Bristol Market*, the People understanding them to be the Spoils of Conscience, no Body would purchase them at any Rate; but in their Return Home, they sold them very cheap at *Long-Ashton*, and to confirm their Sale, went back to *Bristol*, and would have entred them in the Market-Book, but the Toll-keeper refused, because they were not sold there: So the next Week they were brought again to the Market, and the Buyer and Seller appearing, got them entred by the Help of two Justices, who were very officious in this Affair.

When the Informers came to seize the Goods of *James Worme*, a Lodger, who hired a Room with a Bed, whereon one *John Griffin* at that Time lay sick; they had the Barbarity to pluck the Bolster and Sheets from under the sick Man, and make them Part of their Spoil; the rest they made up with Shirts and other Linen. A notorious Informer in these Cafes was *Edmund Hayward*, a Man so hardned, as to make a Sport of his wicked Employment; when he had taken away all the Cattle one Farmer had, and a Neighbour in Charity had lent him two Cows to milk for his Children, this *Hayward* told one of his Comrades, that *There was two more Cows sent him from Heaven*. And no doubt would have seized them, had he not been prevented by their being speedily returned to the Owner; for the Manner of such Harpies was to take all they could find, and as soon as the Sufferers had renewed their Stock, to repeat their Plunder. The Mother of this *Hayward* was a sober Woman, and averse to his Actions, which she cautioned him against in the following Letter, viz.

"Son Edmund,

Letter to an
Informer from
his Mother.

"MY Love is to you remembred, but at this Time with much Grief of Heart I write unto you; for I understand you have been an Instrument of giving much Trouble to honest People, which grieves me more than I can expresse: And I now earnestly require you to heed what I say, if you have any Love to God, or Love to your own Soul, or Love to me, that so soon as you have received these Lines, you resolve for the Time to come, never to do any Thing more against honest People, not so much as to speak against them one Word tending to their Hurt. And if you are in an Office, you may keep forth of the Way, as honest sober Men do elsewhere. And I do understand, that none doth meddle in these Employments, but those that have not the Fear of God before their Eyes, and such as do not stand upon their Credit and Reputation in this Life, nor their Happiness in the Life to come. An Informer is accounted the basest of Men that are. Those that are accounted Rogues do scorn to be Informers, that being accounted a Degree worse than they. I wish you were but sensible of my great Grief and Trouble about this Business, and not me only, but your Brothers and Sisters also. And I intreat you to write to me with what Speed you can, to give me Satisfaction, for I much long till I hear from you, and am in continual Trouble till I hear you are of another Spirit. As you tender my Comfort and Peace, mind what I say, and shall remain

"Your Loving Mother,

"M. PLAYER."

3. Publoe
Meeting.

III. P U B L O E Meeting.

Nicholas Allen, at whose House the Meeting was usually held, had his House seized on by the Officers for a Fine of

l. s. d.

20 0 0

Carried over 20 0 0

	Brought over	l.	s.	d.
For being at Meetings at Publoe, were		20	0	0
Taken from Joseph Wade, James Cotton, John Knight, and Richard Walter, Goods worth	}	2	18	0
Nathanael Summers, George Veal, Thomas Butcher, of Chew-magna, and Roger Cotton	}	5	9	0
		28	7	0

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IV. LONG-SUTTON Meeting.		Goods worth	l.	s.	d.
Taken from John Burt, whose Doors the Spoilers broke open	}		14	12	0
Alice Gaylard, Edward Perries, and Thomas Witcomb	}		17	1	4
Andrew Owsley and Jacob Turner			30	2	0
Charity Gaylard Widow, and William Copp			22	12	0
Joseph Bull, Richard Plowman, and Joane Nowell	}		14	12	0
Anna Dabb, a poor Widow			15	0	0
Anne Gaylard 20 l. Robert Thomas 1 l.			21	0	0
William Gees, William Burt, Robert Ford, and William Kelway	}		18	8	8
			153	8	0

4. Long-Sutton Meeting.

The rapacious Informers, not satisfied with the Seizure they had made on Joane Nowell, came again with the Officers, and took away the small Remainder of her Goods, insultingly charging the Officers to clear the House, threatening to have them fined if they left any Thing. The like Spoil was also made on William Kelway, who had all his Goods seized by Persons who would not produce any Warrant. The Seizure made on the Widow Dabb, was of Cattle and Hay, the Property of her Fatherless Children, to whom they were left by their Father's Will; but the merciless Informers regarded neither Right, Title, nor Property, having no Compassion on the Fatherless and the Widow. The Distress made on Anne Gaylard, was for a Fine imposed on her Son, who dwelt with her, but had no Property in the Goods, and she was not convicted of being at the Meeting, so that the Seizure was illegal. The Seizure of William Gees's Goods, was for his Son's being at a Meeting where himself was not: He appealed to the Quarter Sessions, but obtained no Redress. From Richard Nowell, a poor Man, who dwelt in the Meeting-house, they took all they could lay Hands on, stripping even the Matts from off the Benches, and throwing his Beer into the Street, that they might make Prize of the Barrel.

V. SOUTH-CADBURY Meeting.		Goods worth	l.	s.	d.
Taken from John Fever, of Queen's-Camel, Baker, Bread out of his Oven, worth	}		0	16	0
Walter Fudge, of the same			31	0	0
Michael Corpe, of North-Cadbury			0	12	0
William Dawes, of South-Cadbury			9	5	0
Melchizedec Fever and Jane Jehutt			3	10	0
Mary Langdon and Nicholas Pitman			26	5	0
William Adams, of Corton, Deborah Higgins, of Sparkford, and Edward Jacob, of Kempton	}		1	1	0
			72	9	0

5. South-Cadbury Meeting.

One

SOMER-
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SHIRE.
1670.

Warrant for
Distress.

One of the Warrants for Distress was in the following Form, viz.

“ **W**HEREAS *Nicholas Pitman*, of *North-Cadbury* in the County
“ afore said, *Alice Chiswick*, of the same, *Anne Cooke* and *Frances*
“ *Cooke*, of the same, *Michael Corpe*, of *Woolston* in the Parish of *North-*
“ *Cadbury* afore said, and *Edith Corpe*, of the same, all of them being of
“ the Age of sixteen Years old and upwards, and Subjects of this Realm,
“ were duly convicted before me, by the Oath of two credible Witnesses, for
“ being present at a Conventicle, on the 17th of this Instant *July*, in the
“ House of *Thomas Whitehead*, of *South-Cadbury* in the County afore said, where
“ five Persons and more were assembled together, contrary to the Form of the
“ Statute in that Case made and provided. In Pursuance of which said
“ Statute I do impose on each of them a Fine of five Shillings. These are
“ therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to will and require you, forthwith on Sight
“ hereof, to demand the Sum of five Shillings of each of them the said
“ *Nicholas Pitman*, *Alice Chiswick*, *Frances Cooke*, *Anne Cooke*, *Michael Corpe*,
“ and *Edith Corpe*, which if they, or either of them, shall refuse or neglect
“ to pay you, you are hereby authorized and required to levy the same by
“ Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods so neglecting or refusing, rendring
“ the respective Owners the Overplus thereof, which said Monies you are
“ forthwith to pay to me to be disposed of according to the said Statute :
“ And you are to make Return of this Warrant at *Compton-pauncefoot*, on
“ *Monday* the first Day of *August* next. And hereof fail not at your Perils.
“ Given under my Hand and Seal this 19th Day of *July*, Anno Dom. 1670.

“ ROBERT HUNT.”

The Officers made Return of this Warrant as thereby directed, but not finding any Goods or Chattels of the said *Alice Chiswick*, *Frances Cooke*, *Anne Cooke*, and *Edith Corpe*, they made Report of their Insolvency.

6. Crewk-
herne Meer-
ing.

VI. CREWKHERNE Meeting.

	Goods worth		
	l.	s.	d.
Taken from <i>Thomas Beard</i> and <i>Richard Lincoln</i>	35	6	0
<i>William Partridge</i> and <i>Benjamin Coggan</i>	30	4	8
<i>John Quire</i> , of <i>Misterton</i> , and <i>William Smith</i>	2	17	8
<i>Robert Chapell</i> and <i>Grace Brown</i> , of <i>Hasel-</i> <i>borough</i>	3	16	3
<i>Robert Giles</i> , <i>Thomas Paul</i> , and <i>Giles West</i> , of <i>Iminster</i>	4	10	0
<i>Francis Wilkins</i> and <i>Elias Osborne</i> , of <i>Chil-</i> <i>lington</i>	2	9	0
<i>Samuel Curtis</i> , of <i>Crewkherne</i>	20	0	0
<i>Richard Newberry</i> , <i>Joseph Gillet</i> , <i>William</i> <i>Ferris</i> , and <i>William Wilkins</i> , all of <i>Hawk-</i> <i>church</i> in <i>Dorsetshire</i>	6	14	0
<i>Robert Curtis</i> , of <i>South-Perrot</i> in <i>Dorsetshire</i>	0	8	0
<i>Katharine Dornford</i> , of <i>Higher-Kingcomb</i> in <i>Dorsetshire</i>	0	13	10½
<i>Edward Cousins</i> , for his Wife, on a false Information	1	8	0
<i>Josiah Limbry</i> , of <i>Thorncomb</i> in <i>Devonshire</i>	0	16	0
<i>Margaret Winterbay</i> , of <i>Scarborough</i>	1	16	0
<i>Samuel Paul</i> , of <i>Haselborough</i>	0	5	0
	111	4	5½

Several

Several Persons, taken at *Crewkerne* Meeting, dwelling in other Counties, the Distresses on them were made by Warrant from some Justice of the County where they dwelt, after his receiving a Certificate from one of the Justices of the Peace of the County where the Meeting was. The Form of which Warrants may be seen by the following Copy of one of them, viz.

SOMER-
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1670.

“ *Dorsetshire.*

“ WILLIAM FLOYER Esq; one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace
“ in and for this County.

“ To the several Tithingmen of Wild-Court and Filly-hone in the
“ Parish of Hawkchurch, and to the Churchwardens and Overseers
“ of the Poor of the same Parish, These.

“ WHEREAS I am credibly informed, by a Certificate under the
“ Hand and Seal of *William Helliar*, Esq; one of his Majesty's Justices
“ of the Peace for the County of *Somerset*, that *William Wilkins*, *William Ferris*,
“ and *Mary Ferris* his Wife, all of your said Parish of *Hawkchurch*, were
“ lawfully convicted by the said *William Helliar* Esq; for being at a Conven-
“ ticle in the House of *Samuel Curtis* in *Crewkerne*, on *Wednesday* the tenth
“ Day of *August* last past, I do thereupon, according to the Act of Parliament
“ in that Case provided, impose the several Sums of five Shillings on each of
“ the said several Persons. These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to
“ authorize and require you, that forthwith upon Sight hereof, you levy the
“ Sum of five Shillings on the Goods and Chattels of every one of the before-
“ mentioned Persons convicted as aforesaid, by Distress and Sale thereof. And
“ the Money you are to bring to me at *Charmouth* on *Wednesday* next, to the
“ End it may be disposed of according to the said Act: And hereof you are
“ not to fail, as you will avoid the Penalties mentioned in the said Act.
“ Given under my Hand and Seal at *Charmouth* in the said County, the 22d
“ Day of *September*, Anno rni. Caroli Secundi nunc Angliæ, &c. 22^o.
“ Annoq; Dom. 1670.

Copy of a
Warrant
grounded on
a Certificate
from another
County.

“ WM. FLOYER.”

Some of the Justices were forward to communicate Intelligence of this Kind to the Magistrates of other Counties, that so none of this People might escape the Penalty of the Law, who would not decline from their Religious Duty of assembling together to worship God.

VII. WYTHELL Meeting.

Taken from *William Liddon*, of *Wythell*
Robert How, of *Brampton-Regis*
William Thomas, of *Dulverton*

Goods worth	l.	s.	d.
	43	4	0
	5	13	0
	1	11	0
	50	8	0

7. Wythell
Meeting.

The Encouragement at this Time given by some Magistrates to the Informers, was obvious in the following Instance: There were two base Fellows, *Mudford* and *Lobb*, who practised the Trade of Informing. *Mudford* had got a Wench with Child in *Sellworthy* Parish, and being had before Justice *Windbam*, was upon the point of going to Goal for lack of Sureties to indemnify the Parish; but the Justice loth to lose so useful a Man, found an Expedient to help him, by ordering the Parish-Officers to receive the Parts of several Fines, which *Mudford* was to have had; but that being too little, *Lobb*, to help his Brother in Iniquity at a dead Lift, gave up his Part of the Fines also; and so raised 6l. out of honest Mens Goods, to keep the Rascal at Liberty to pursue his

Informers
favour'd by
some Justices.

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8. Burnham
Meeting.

his old Trade, in which the Justice shewed them his Favour and Countenance, palliating their notorious Immoralities by saying, that *Whatever they were in other Respects, they were honest Men in that.*

VIII. BURNHAM Meeting.

Goods worth

	l.	s.	d.
Taken from Henry Moore, of Burnham	40	0	0
Arthur Geoffrey, of South-Brent	6	16	6
Nicholas Keele, of Limsbam	9	16	0
John Brice, Anne Hilbert, Robert Sutton, William Rogers, Thomas Gold, and Richard Corpe	2	8	6
Richard Clarke, Richard Kingbury, Josiah Wride, John Board, and John Coombe	2	5	0
William Harris and Thomas Smith, both of Mark, and Richard Geoffrey, of South-Brent	1	2	0
Edward Laurence and Andrew Whitpot, both of Axbridge, and Richard Kingbury, of Berrow	4	5	0
Richard Clark of Powlett, John Brice of Burnham, Thomas Whitport, and Richard Stoddy	11	0	0
	77	3	0

9. Bridgwater
Meeting.

IX. BRIDGWATER Meeting.

On the 29th of the Month called May 1670, as the following Persons, viz. Thomas Powel and Thomas Collins, of Middlezoy, John Slocombe of Morland, John Smith of Stathe, Hays Hilborne of North-Petherion, John Bullam of the same, Nathanael Bloden of Gregory-Stoke, and James Pople of Stawell, were passing intentionally to a Meeting at the House of John Anderdon in Bridgwater, they were stopt by the Bayliff and Constables, who demanded of them 1s. each, and for refusing to pay it, sent them to Prison.

10. Taunton
Meeting.

X. TAUNTON Meeting.

Goods worth

	l.	s.	d.
Taken from John Alloway and Abraham Dickson	2	15	0

11. Gregory-
Stoke Meet-
ing.

XI. GREGORY-STOKE Meeting.

Taken by Distress for Meetings,

Goods worth
l. s. d.

From Thomas Whitehead, of South-Cadbury, Thomas Woolfry, of Beercrocomb, and John Gullock, of Isle-Abbots	5	2	2
Thomas Powel, of Middlezoy, Thomas Gully, of Gregory-Stoke, and George Chilcutt, of North- Curry	9	2	4
Elizabeth Douch, Walter Bult, and Richard Grabbam	2	4	0
Thomas Paul, Robert Giles, and Benjamin Cbick, all of Ilminster	3	19	0
Elias Waymouth, of Taunton, Inn-keeper	13	15	0
Ellinor Combstock, of Gregory-Stoke, Widow	1	6	8
John Smith and Thomas Hemborough, for their Wives	1	5	0
Carried over	36	14	2

From Edward Derbam, Samuel Powel, and John Roman
for his Wife
William Lea for himself and Fides his Wife
Gregory Ceely, Henry Smith, and Margaret Roberts
John Cuffe for himself and Anne his Wife

Brought over

36 14 2
1 5 0
0 10 0
7 13 0
12 0 0
58 2 2

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Warrants on
false Informa-
tions.

Some of the Warrants, authorizing these Distresses, were grounded on false Informations: The Informers swore that Thomas Gully was at a Meeting at a Time when he was sick in Bed, and died soon after. They also charged Gregory Ceely upon Oath, of being at a Meeting where he was not, and that Adria his Wife was at the same Meeting, when she had been dead twenty five Years before. To save this, after the Distresses were made, the Justice's Clerk and the Informers laid their Heads together, and alter'd the Record by erasing the Name Adria, and putting in the Name Philippa, who was his present Wife, though that also was false, for she was not at the Meeting. They also swore against William Lea the Younger, as being at a Meeting five Weeks after his Death.

When Edward Derbam, being falsely informed against, went to make his Complaint to the Justice, he found Hayward, the Informer there, impudently confronting him thus, *If you will take the Oath of Allegiance you may be excused*: Thus the Tender of the Oath was made use of by the wicked Informers to stifle the just Complaints of those whom they had falsely accused, and to secure themselves from the Punishment they deserved.

When John Roman, who was no Quaker, was fined 60*l.* for permitting them to meet in his House, though he himself was not at those Meetings, but occupied the House where they were usually held. He appealed to the Quarter Sessions, but instead of obtaining any Redress, incurred 40*l.* more Charge for treble Costs, being cast in his just Appeal.

Thus the Informers swore at random; though when they were more cautious, the Justices would convict on very slender Evidence; for when an Informer convicted John Cuffe and his Wife, he acknowledged that he did not see them at the Meeting, but swore he saw them go into the House, and afterward into a Neighbour's Yard; this Evidence was sufficient with Justice Walrond to convict them, and order Distress of their Goods.

In making Seizure on the Goods of Elias Waymouth, an Inn-keeper of Taunton, for Fines for himself and twenty others being at a Meeting, viz. John Holeworth, William Clark, George Way, William Edwards, Hannah Pulley, Francis Harford, Robert Dyer, Robert Edwards, Grace Button, Thomas Bond, Edmund Bond, Agnes Coombe, John Smith and his Wife, Joane Ham-borough, Katharine Sweeting, Christibella Dolman, Skonamite Pack, Edward Paleman, and Humphry Pope, the Informers acted in a most insolent Manner, breaking open the Doors, and presenting a Pistol cockt to his Breast, telling him, *that was their Warrant*.

It happened at a Meeting at Gregory-Stoke, on the 10th of the Month called July this Year, that one Captain Lacey came with a Troop of Horse to the Meeting-place, and demanded the Names of the Friends present, but they observing him to swear and curse outrageously, did not believe him to be a Justice of the Peace, and therefore refused to tell their Names; whereupon he took away sixteen of them, viz. Thomas Plaise, Roger Nott, John Nott, Richard Cooper, Joseph Cole, William Day, John Anger, William Elliott, William Salway, Thomas Stone, William Gravett, Jonathan Collier, William Dare, Owen Henry, John Slocomb, and one other, and carried them Prisoners to North-Petherton, where being certainly informed, that this swearing Hektor was invested with the Authority of a Justice, they told him their Names. He then tendered them the Oath of Allegiance, and committed them to Prison. This was done at

16 Committed
by a swearing
Justice.

the

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1670.

Character of a
persecuting
Priest.

Moving Case
of a poor
Widow.

the Instigation of one *Hewett*, Priest of *North-Pelberton*, a Man so imbitter'd against *Non-conformists*, that he endeavoured to prevent any of them from working in his Parish, but withal so unguarded in the Duties of his Office, that he publickly in the Steeple-house, pronounced one *John Dabin* excommunicate, without any Authority from the Bishop or any Ecclesiastical Court. Thus the prophane Justice, and the stupid Priest, acted in Concert to imprison the Innocent. At the next Quarter Sessions, neither the Cause of their Apprehension, (*viz.* Meeting) nor the Cause of their Commitment (*viz.* the Oath) were objected against them, but they were indicted for a Riot, and by a Jury made up of Apparitors, and others subservient to the Purpose of the Court, were brought in *Guilty*, fined five Marks each, and returned to Prison till Payment. One of them, *Owen Henry*, through Weakness and Instability, procured his Liberty by Payment of the Fine, but afterward expressed great Trouble and Uneasiness of Mind for his having so done.

The Case of *Joane Coombe*, an aged poor Widow of *Gregory-Stoke*, at whose House the Meeting then was held, was exceedingly moving: She had several Times been fined 20*l.* upon the Oaths of those hardened Informers, *Hayward* and *Hurt*, who came with some Parish Officers, armed with a Warrant from Justice *Walrond*, in the Month called *February*, to her House, and seized on all she had, taking an Inventory thereof, even to the Bed on which she lay sick, the whole amounting but to about 6*l.* Soon after this, by another Warrant, they took the poor Woman, not yet recovered of her Sickness, and carried her before the said Justice *Walrond*, who committed her to *Ilchester* Goal. She had a Daughter, a poor helpless Girl, about eighteen Years of Age, but so weak, both in Body and Intellects, as to be utterly incapable of providing for herself, and through this Cruelty toward her Mother, was left to the Parish, the poor Woman recommending her to the Care of the Officers, when she herself was carried away to Prison.

12. Middle-
zoy Meeting.

XII. MIDDLEZOY Meeting.

Taken from *Edward Warner*, *John Parsons*, *John Tomp-
son*, and *Thomas Collins*, all of *Middlezoy*
Thomas Powel of the same, at least

Goods worth		
<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
4	13	4
40	0	0
44	13	4

The said *Thomas Powel*, being fined 20*l.* to prevent Informers from devouring the Substance of his Creditors, returned to them some Part of his Shop Goods before the Seizure, by which, though the Informers were disappointed of some of their intended Prey, yet his Loss was at least 40*l.*

13. Hummer
Meeting.

XIII. HUMMER Meeting.

Taken from *John Allen*, of *Bridginton*
Rose Pittard, *John Goodson*, *John Waterman*,
Jasper Stokes, *Mary Stokes*, and *Anne*
Raymond

Goods worth		
<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
29	0	0
2	0	0
31	0	0

Beside the many Distresses before mentioned, were also taken for attending religious Meetings in this County, within the present Year,

More Dis-
tresses.

From *John Cole*, *Thomas Stone*, *William Cooke*, and
Richard Plaice, all of *Shapwick*

Goods worth		
<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1	19	8
1	19	8

Carried over

	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	1	19	8
From William Pearce and John King, both of Chiltborn,	0	11	6
and Thomas Plaice, of Edington	0	18	0
Lucy Higgins, of Yarlinton	1	0	0
Richard Nowel, of Long-Sutton	1	10	0
John Plumley, John Young, and George Plumley	2	2	0
James Plumley, John Gullock, Walter Bult, and			
John Dorman			

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1670.

8 1 2

The Amount of the Distresses, herein before specified } 934 12 10½
to have been made this Year, is

On the 22d of the Month called June this Year, Thomas Budd, a faithful Man, having been a Prisoner at Ilchester about eight Years and four Months, under Sentence of Premunire, departed this Life in much Peace, declaring some Hours before his Death, That he had renewed his Engagements and Covenants with God, and was therein well satisfied, and expressed a firm Hope and Belief, that God would support him as in Life, so in Death, with the right Hand of his Righteousness. He also rejoiced and praised God, that his Children did walk in the Way of the Lord.

Death of
T. Budd
after long
imprisonment.

On the 8th of the Month called July, Abraham Dickson and John Alway were sent to Prison by the following Mittimus, viz.

“ Somer set is.

“ I Herewithal send you the Bodies of John Alway and Abraham Dickson, both of Taunton-Magdalen in the County aforesaid, who were brought before me this present Day, and stand accused for that they have not some Years past come to their Parish-Church, nor received the holy Communion or Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and whereas they have refused to take the Oath of Allegiance unto our Sovereign Lord the King, the same being duly tendred them: These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to charge and require you forthwith on Sight hereof, to receive the said John Alway and Abraham Dickson into your Goal, and them safely to keep in your said Goal until the next Assizes and General-Goal-Delivery, to be held for the County aforesaid, then and there to answer the Premises, and to be dealt with according to Law. Given under my Hand and Seal at Chipley, the 8th Day of July, in the 22d Year of his Majesty's Reign: Annoq; Dom. 1670.

Mittimus of
J. Alway and
A. Dickson.

To the Keeper of his Majesty's
Goal at Ilchester, or to his
sufficient Deputy. These.

“ EDWARD CLARK.”

They were accordingly committed to Prison, and at the Assizes held the next Month at Wells, had Sentence of Premunire past upon them for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance.

Sentence of
Premunire.

On the 26th of the Month called August, Samuel Clothier died a Prisoner, having suffered at several Times, ten Years and three Months Imprisonment for not paying Tithes, which he esteemed an Antichristian Imposition. He finished his Life and Testimony in Peace with God, and left a good Savour behind him. Several Persons were fined, and suffered Distress of their Goods for being at his Burial at Alford. Robert Hunt, a Justice, calling their Meeting

Death of
S. Clothier.

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Distresses for
going to the
Funeral of
S. Clothier.

on that Occasion a Conventicle, though nothing was spoken at the Grave, but all silent. For their being present at this Funeral, were taken

From Joane Clothier, Widow of the deceased, for her- self and Son Samuel, and two Relations	2	0	0
Abraham Clothier, Brother of the deceased, for himself and several others	1	7	2
Susan Armsted, Widow	0	17	0
	4	4	2

Several of the Neighbours also, who were not Quakers, were fined for going to the Burial, and paid their Fines to prevent the Seizure of their Goods.

Death of
T. Parsons.

On the 21st of December, Thomas Parsons of Portishead, and John Spore, of Porbury, were committed to Prison, where the said Thomas Parsons died about three Months after. He was a faithful and valiant Man, who kept his House open for Religious Meetings, in the most dangerous Times, and maintained his Testimony to the Truth through many Imprisonments and Spoilings of his Goods, abiding firm unto the End, and finishing his Course with Joy.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

In this Year the following Persons were committed to Prison at Hchester for refusing to pay Tithes, viz. Andrew Owsley, Edward Petries, and Robert Banton, at the Suit of John Strode, of Long-Sutton, Impropiator: John Cary, at the Suit of Thomas Earl, Priest of Alford: Richard Counsel of Badgworth, at the Suit of Mary Smith, the Priest's Widow: Robert Thomas of Long-Sutton, at the Suit of John Strode, Impropiator: John Coate, at the Suit of Samuel Tilly, Priest of Kingsbury: Margaret Gregory and John King, at the Suit of Edward Jacob, Priest of West-Liddisford: John Smith of Gregory-Stoke, at the Suit of George Baulbwell, Tithe-farmer: Arthur Geofry and Richard Geofry, of South-Brent: William Lyddon of Wythell, at the Suit of John Hillacre, Tithe-farmer.

A relenting
Prosecutor.

ANNO 1671. John Hilbert, of Burnham, was imprisoned for Tithes, at the Suit of Thomas Mompeyson, Impropiator: As was Robert How, of King's-Brampton, at the Suit of Thomas Dike, Impropiator: Which Thomas Dike afterward, when on his Death-bed, troubled in Mind for what he had done, to demonstrate his Repentance, released the said Robert How from his Imprisonment.

Prisoners for
Tithes.

Also Elias Osborn and Elizabeth Perian, of Chillington, were imprisoned at the Suit of John Paulett, Impropiator: James Pople, at the Suit of William Bull of Shapwick: And Walter Hodges of Kingsbury, on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, at the Suit of William Strode, Impropiator.

ANNO 1672. Taken this Year by Distress, for Tithes,

Distresses for
Tithes.

From John Clark, of Grinton, Goods worth	2	8	0
Henry Clothier	6	10	0
Gregory Ceely	21	11	6
	30	9	6

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

Thomas Gully was this Year imprisoned for Tithes, at the Suit of John Ellis and John Stallington, Impropiators: For the same Cause John Andrews suffered Imprisonment: As did Thomas Combe in the Castle of Taunton.

Release of
Prisoners.

In this Year the following Persons, by the King's Letters Patent, were released from their Imprisonment in Hchester Goal, where many of them had been long confined and endured much Hardship, viz. William Beaton, Samuel Scott, John Leverick, John Fudge, John Slade, Samuel Trent, John Anderdon, Thomas Plaice, William Day, William Salway, Richard Cooper, Roger Nott, John Nott, John Cole, Andrew Elliott, John Holcombe, Thomas Stone, William Dare, William Gravett, John Anger, Jonathan Collier, Owen Henry, John Smith, John

John Adams, John Collins, Joseph Pearce, William Roche, John Denbury, Rice Morris, George Clapp, Nathanael Parke, John Carey, Giles Brook, Amos Parsons, Henry Turner, Henry Lambert, Thomas Sawrey, William Leakey, and Tobias Wells.

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ANNO 1673. Thomas Plaice was sent to Prison for being at a Meeting; he was also fined 20 l. and had his Goods distrained for the same.

Imprisonment
for Meeting.

ANNO 1674. Jane Loscomb, Wife of Thomas Loscomb, of Queen's-Camel, was fined 5 l. for refusing to Swear on the Trial of a Thief, who had stolen her Husband's Goods. Also Margaret Ham, Wife of John Ham, of Hantspill, for absenting herself from the National Worship, was committed to Prison by a Warrant granted by William Fane, a Priest, who was also a Justice of the Peace.

For refusing to
Swear.

For Absence
from the pub-
lick Worship.

ANNO 1675. John Cole, Elizabeth Coleman, William Turner, Mary Giles, John Sweet, Sarah Hart, Henry Cross, and Anne Marlow, having been imprisoned for Meeting, were discharged at the Sessions in Bath, on the 2d of October this Year.

Release of
Prisoners.

For a Meeting, held on the 24th of November, at the House of Nathanael Atwood in Wivelscomb, were taken by Distress from the said Nathanael Atwood, William Warre, Laurence Davis, Edward Pole, and Gregory Benison, to the Value of 38 l.

Distresses for
Meeting.

In this Year the Widow of Philip Tyler, of Walton, was fined for being present at the Burial of her Husband, and suffered Distress of two Cows worth 9 l. Also about thirty two other Persons were fined for being at the same Burial, and had taken from them in Cattle, Corn, and other Goods, to the Value of 82 l. and upwards. The Warrant for those Distresses was granted by Francis Pawlett Justice, who, when no other Persons would buy the distrained Cattle, sent Men to buy them for himself.

A Widow
fined for
being at her
Husband's
Funeral. Also
32 others for
being at the
same.

On the 21st of the Month called July, John Anderdon, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, had Sentence of Premunire past upon him by Judge Rainsford.

Premunire.

ANNO 1676. On the 10th of November, on Information of a Meeting at the House of William Beaton in Puddimore-Milton, several Persons had their Goods taken away by Warrant from Robert Hunt, Justice, as follows, viz.

	l.	s.	d.	
From the said William Beaton, to the Value of	16	0	0	Distresses for Meeting.
Thomas Martin, of Chilton	6	6	8	
Thomas Mitchel, of Compton	10	0	0	
John Martin, of Brewton, and Samuel Scott, of Ilchester	1	12	0	
William Collins, of Yelverton, and Melchizedec Fever	1	5	0	
	35	3	8	

ANNO 1678. John Whiting, of Naylsey, was prosecuted in the Bishop's Court at Wells, at the Suit of Edward Ancketyll, Priest of Wraxall and Naylsey, for Tithes of the yearly Value of about 20 s. The Parson's Charge, as exhibited against him in a Schedule given into Court, was as follows, viz.

Prosecution of
J. Whiting.

A Copy of the Schedule.

" I M P R I M I S, The said John Whiting had held and possessed in the
" said Parish of Wraxall and Tithable-places thereof, the Years and Months
" libellate, all or some of them, seven Acres of Ground, which he sowed or
" caused to be sown with Wheat, each Acre yielding five Hundred Bushels,
" each Bushel worth 8 s. and the Tithe after that Rate.
" Item. The said John Whiting had in the said Parish eight Acres of
" Ground, which he sowed or caused to be sown with Oats, each Acre yield-
" ing eight Hundred Bushels, and each Bushel worth 4 s. 6 d. and the Tithe
" after that Rate.

Copy of the
Schedule
against him.

" Item.

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"Item. The said *John Whiting* had five Acres of Ground, which he sowed with Barley, each Acre yielding four Hundred Bushels, and each Bushel worth 5s.

"Item. The said *John Whiting* was and is an Inhabitant and Parishioner of and in *Wraxall* aforesaid, and ought to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper yearly at *Easter*, and ought to pay the Parson, or his Assigns, the Sum of 6d. in Money, at the Feast of *Easter* yearly."

Notes on the
Falshood of
this Procedure.

Note. According to this Schedule the whole Corn, for one Year, came to 3340l. and the Tithe of it to 334l. But if for two Years, the Time they libell'd for, the whole Corn must come to 6680l. and the Tithe to 668l. Whereas in Truth the said *John Whiting* had not a Grain either of Wheat or Barley, and all the Corn he had growing was worth but about 10l. and the Tithe of it came to about 20s.

Hence we may observe, how justly applicable to such Ecclesiastical Proceffes, the Words of the Poet are,

—Fugere pudor, verumque fidesque,
In quorum subiere locum fraudesque dolique,
Insidiaeque & vis, & amor sceleratus habendi.

Englified thus,

Faith, Truth, and Modesty, from thence are fled,
Fraud, Force, Deceit, and Treachery succeed,
With wicked Love of Lucre in their Stead.

J. Whiting
imprisoned.

For refusing to answer to his Adversary's Libel upon Oath, the said *John Whiting* was excommunicated, and on the 28th of the Month called *June*, early in the Morning, was arrested in his own House, and carried the same Day to *Ilchester* Prison, being about thirty Miles. He was put into the Sheriff's Ward, by the River Side, over against the Common Goal, where he found several others of his Friends also Prisoners, as were more of them in a Place called the *Friery* at the other End of the Town, some of whom had been there many Years for refusing to pay Tithes, as by his following Account of them, and of the Times of their several Commitments appears, viz.

An Account of
the Prisoners
at Ilchester.

In *October* 1666, *John Sage* of *Chewton-Mendip*, aged about eighty Years, at the Suit of *Anne Kingmill*, Widow and Impropriatrix.

In the Month called *August* 1670, *Marmaduke Coate* of *Hambridge*, at the Suit of *Robert Banbury*, Impropriator.

In *November* 1670, *Arthur Geofry* of *South-Brent*, at the Suit of *William Plumley*, *Thomas Brigham*, and *Willoughby Line* Spinster, Impropriators.

In the Month called *April* 1673, *Gregory Ceely* of *North-Curry*, at the Suit of *Robert Hill*, Tithe-farmer.

In the Month called *January* 1670, *William Liddon* of *Wylbell*, at the Suit of *John Hillacre*, Tithe-farmer.

On the 24th of the Month called *March*, 1673-4, *Thomas Browning* of *Limington*, at the Suit of *Matthew Braine*, Priest.

On the 28th of the Month called *March* 1674, *James Pople* of *Stawel*, at the Suit of *Henry Bull*, Impropriator.

In *December* 1674, *John Denny* of *Weston-Zoyland*, on an Excommunication, at the Suit of *William Powel*, Impropriator.

In the Month called *January* 1674, *Jeremy Powel* of *Michael Creech*, on an Excommunication, at the Suit of *John Gale*, Priest.

In the Month called *April* 1675, *William Ford* of *Curry-Mallet*, at the Suit of *Thomas Beale*, Priest: *John Wride*, *Robert Button*, *John Brice*, and *Robert Stort*, of *Burnham*, by Justices Warrant, for Contempt in not appearing at the Bishop's Court on Proceffes for Tithes, at the Suit of *Robert Collier*, Priest
of

of *Chard*: And *Edward Silcock* of *Weston-super-Mare*, on an Excommunication, at the Suit of *Samuel Willan*, Priest of *Weston* and *Kewstoke*.

In 1675, *John Parsons* of *Middlezoy*, on an Excommunication, at the Suit of *William Powel*, Impropiator.

In the Month called *January* 1675, *John Chappell* of *Worle*, on an Excommunication, at the Suit of *Samuel Willan*, Priest of *Kewstoke*.

In the Month called *March* 1676, *Robert Wills* of *Chiffelborough*, at the Suit of Priest *Gauler*.

In the Month called *July* 1676, *Thomas Powel* of *Greaton*, on an Excommunication, at the Suit of *William Powel*, Impropiator.

In the Month called *August* 1676, *Eleanor Powel*, at the Suit of Priest *Collier* of *Grinton*.

In *September* 1676, *William Goodridge* and *Samuel Sayer*, of *Ranwell*, at the Suit of *Jacob Crosman*, Priest.

In the Month called *January* 1676, *Edmund Chappell*, of *Worle*, at the Suit of Priest *Willan* afore said.

In the Month called *March* 1677, *John Pople* of *Edington*, at the Suit of *Henry Bull*, Impropiator.

In *November* 1677, *Thomas Hurd* of *Somerton*, at the Suit of *Henry Crane*, Tiche-farmer.

In the Month called *February* 1677, *Thomas Martin* of *Chilton-Dormer*, at the Suit of *John Stuckey*, Priest.

In *September* 1678, *Henry Gundry* of *Street*, on Justices Warrant for Contempt in not appearing at the Bishop's Court, at the Suit of *Joseph Glanvil*, Priest of *Bath*.

In the Month called *May* 1679, *George Allen* of *Naylsey*, and *Samuel Hipsley* of *Yatton*, upon a Procefs at Common Law, at the Suit of the Lord *Pawlett*.

Beside those already mentioned, there had been imprisoned for Tithes, some Years before *John Whiting's* Commitment, *John Coate*, *John Smith*, *Thomas Ridout* of *Mark*, and *Walter Hodges* of *Kingsbury*: Also *Lucy Travers*, an ancient Widow, who being for some Time at her Daughter's House in *Queen's-Camel*, was prosecuted for a Demand of 2 *d.* for *Easter-Offerings* by one *Kitley*, Priest of that Parish, and cast into Prison, where she died a Prisoner on the 25th of the Month called *March* 1674, yielding up her Life in a free and faithful Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of such superstitious Impositions.

About *September* 1678, *Christopher Bacon*, of *Sutton*, was imprisoned at *Bridgwater* by *William Macey*, one of the Magistrates of that Town, for Tithes said to be due to the Corporation: He was kept close confined in a very cold Room in the Common Prison; *Macey*, his Prosecutor, saying, *He should abide there until he did eat the Boards of the Loft*, and through the Extremity of Cold he suffered much, till he became very sick, when with much Difficulty his Wife was admitted to go in and out to administer to him: When he was grown so weak, that it was thought he would have died there, they turned him out; but he never perfectly recovered his Health after, but remained in a weak State of Body about two Months, and then died on the 29th of *December*, being about fifty five Years of Age: The afore said *John Whiting*, who well knew him, gives this Account of him, viz. "That he was much spent with "hard Labour, Travels, and Sufferings for the Gospel's Sake, and the Testi- "mony of it; that there was a fresh Appearance of the Lord's Power and "Prefence with him to the last, so that he was a good Saviour to them that "were about him."

For a Meeting at *Glastonbury*, on the 25th of *December* 1678, was taken

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>Peter Goole</i> , of <i>Mark</i> , an Heifer worth	3	0	0
<i>Richard Goole</i> , an Heifer worth	2	5	0
<i>William Harris</i> , of <i>Mark</i> , Goods worth	0	14	0

Car. over 5 19 0

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1678.

Death of
L. Travers.

Imprisonment
of C. Bacon
for Tithes.

His Death
and Character.

Distresses for
Meeting.

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1678.

	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	5	19	0
From Nathanael Brian, of Douling, four Heifers worth	9	5	0
Jonatban Nichols, a Cow and an Heifer worth	5	15	0
Abraham Clothier, about eighty Yards of Cloth worth	4	5	0
Thomas Heath, a Cow worth	4	0	0
John Clothier, two Oxen worth	11	10	0
Henry Clothier, two Steers worth about	6	10	0
	47	4	0

Fines for
Meeting.

John Clark and Robert Clark, of Grinton, were fined each 3*l.* 5*s.* for being at the Meeting last mentioned.

For a Meeting held in the Abbey Kitchen at Glaston, Thomas Shepberd and Henry Gundry were fined for themselves, and the pretended Poverty of Jasper Batt, who preached there, 3*l.* 5*s.* each; and William Hulett, Hannab Haynes, Anne Pollett, Henry Reeves, Elizabeth Hulett, Dorothy Shepberd, Anne Reeves, John Pollet, Robert Gundry, Rachel Gundry, Julian Nichols, William Shepberd, and Anne Scott, 5*s.* each: And by a Warrant from the same Justice to the Officers of Chilton, Cicely, Wife of Edward Champion, was fined 5*l.* 5*s.* and George Godfrey and Hannab Pill, 5*s.* each.

Tithes of
Corn, &c.

ANNO 1679. Taken in this and the two preceding Years, from diverse of those Friends before mentioned, while they were in Prison, Corn, Cattle, and other Goods, for Tithes; as also from several others, whose Names in the Index annexed may be distinguished by referring to this Page, amounting to 94*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*

Excommuni-
cation and
Distresses for
Absence from
the publick
Worship.

John Allen, of Teovil, was excommunicated for Absence from the National Worship; and for the same Cause, John Clothier had his Plough-share and Coulter taken from him; also John Dory and John Tucker, of Blagden, George Pearce of Winscomb, and Timothy Willis of Rowborough, had Goods taken from them worth 1*l.* 6*s.*

Thomas Dickinson, for being at a religious Meeting, was fined 5*l.* 10*s.* And for the same Cause John Clothier, of East-Liddisford, and Henry Gundry and William Hulett, of Street, had their Goods taken by Distress, to the Value of 19*l.*

ANNO 1680. At the Summer Assizes, a List of the People called Quakers, then imprisoned at Ilchester, was presented to the Judges, with the following State of their Case, viz.

“ To Judge NORTH and Judge JONES, Justices of the Assize, to be
“ holden at Wells for the County of Somerset.

“ The Humble Representation of some of the Grievances of the People called
“ QUAKERS, who are now Sufferers in Ilchester Prison, in the County
“ aforesaid, for their Conscience toward GOD.

“ SHEWETH,

Representation
of the Pri-
soners Case to
the Judges of
Assize.

“ THAT the Sufferers do believe, and are fully persuaded, and that of
“ God, that Jesus Christ hath offered himself up by the Eternal Spirit,
“ the one Offering for all, and hath put an End to the Levitical Priesthood,
“ Tithes and Offerings, which were under the Law, and is become an Ever-
“ lasting High-Priest, and Teacher of his People, and doth freely dispense of
“ his Heavenly Gifts and Graces unto the Sons and Daughters of Men, of
“ which the Lord in his Everlasting Love hath made us Partakers, Praises
“ to his Name for ever: And we must confess, that Christ is come in the
“ Flesh, and is become the Minister of the Sanctuary, and of the true Tabernacle,
“ that God hath pitched and not Man, and so cannot continue or any longer
“ uphold

“uphold the Payment of Tithes, which was under the Law. Neither can we Swear for Conscience-sake, it being contrary to the Law of God written in our Hearts by his own Eternal Spirit, and as it is written in the Scriptures of Truth. And we are obliged to worship God in that Way as he hath persuaded us, and wherein we have found Acceptance from him, which is in the Spirit and in the Truth. And as the Lord hath called and visited us with his Everlasting Love, so there is a Necessity upon us to confess Christ before Men, lest he should deny us before our Father which is in Heaven.

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SET-
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1680.

“For which we have many of us, for many Years, suffered Bonds and Imprisonments, and many of our Friends and Brethren have died in Prison, chusing rather to suffer for the Testimony of a good Conscience, than to sin against God, and so lose our Peace with him, being persuaded that no Man whatsoever can bear us out, or acquit us in the Sight of God, if we sin against the Law and Light of Christ in our Conscience.

“Therefore we desire, that our long Grievances in this Behalf, may be duly considered and removed, that so the Oppressed may go free, which is a weighty Matter, and that you would either ease us, or represent our suffering Case to the King, who hath Power to relieve the Oppressed: And the Lord God put it into his Heart to do that which is well-pleasing in his Sight, which will be for his Honour and Peace. And we are the more persuaded that something may be done for our Relief and Release, because the King hath often promised Liberty to tender Consciences, and because our Cause is just, and well known to the Lord, and that we are a peaceable People, we trust the Lord will plead it, who knows that our Sufferings are not of any covetous Mind or Practice, or out of any Stubbornness, or Contempt of the King's Laws; but only and alone for our Conscience toward God do we suffer, unto whom we can appeal, who is the Searcher of all Hearts, who knows our Innocency.

“And therefore we hope he will put it into the Hearts of them that have Power to relieve us, or that he will endue us with Patience longer to suffer, rather than to lose the Answer of a good Conscience, which is Peace with God in whom we trust: And we do believe, that it is his Will that his People should be eased of their Oppressions and Grievances that rest on them for their Conscience toward God, unto whom we commit our Cause, desiring your due Consideration thereof; and that you would act for God and his People, while you have Power and Opportunity put into your Hands, knowing that we must all give an Account unto God, who judgeth righteously, and will reward all them that fear him, and work Righteousness.”

Thus in Christian Meekness they represented their Grievances, waiting in Patience till it should please God to incline the Hearts of those in Authority to grant them Relief.

In or about the Month called July this Year, John Plumley, James Plumley, Charles Plumley, and John Young, for absenting themselves from the National Worship, suffered by Distress of Goods, to the Value of *xl. 15 s.* by Warrant from John Bailey the Bishop's Chancellor, and Francis Pawlett, Justices of the Peace.

Distresses for
Absence from
the National
Worship.

For a Meeting at Gregory-Stoke, John Cusse, John Pinny, Francis Scott, and John Coate, were fined *10 l.* each, for which the two former had their Goods seized, and Warrants were issued against the others.

Fines for
Meeting.

Remarkable in this Year was the Case of Robert Abbott, an Inn-keeper of Ilchester. It was usual for the People called Quakers to have once in a Quarter of a Year, a Meeting at Ilchester for their Church-Affairs, and the making Provision for their Poor, which Meeting they sometimes held at the Friery, where many of their Friends were Prisoners. In September this Year they came from several Parts of the County, in order to such a Meeting, but Henry Walrond,

Remarkable
Case of R.
Abbott, Inn-
keeper.

SOMER-
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SHIRE.
1680.

Walrond, a Justice of the Peace and Captain of a Troop of Horse, prevented them, by causing the Doors of the *Friery* to be lockt, so that neither could the Prisoners go out, nor their Friends come in, for which Reason they were obliged to go to the *George Inn*, being the House of the said *Robert Abbott*, where many of their Horses were: There they held their Meeting, the Men in one Room, and the Women in another. But though there was neither preaching nor praying at that Time, yet the said Justice *Walrond* fined the said *Robert Abbott* 40*l.* for two Meetings in his House, and issued a Warrant to distrain his Goods, which was done, but *Abbott*, to prevent their being carried away, paid down the Money, and appealed to the Quarter Sessions, the Charge of which Appeal came to about 20*l.* more. He was there cast, so that the whole Charge amounted to about 60*l.* *Abbott* was not a *Quaker*, but a civil friendly Man, and those who met at his House, would not let him be a Sufferer for entertaining them, but repaid him his Fine and Costs.

Execution for
Tithes.

Distresses.

ANNO 1681. *William Goodridge* had taken from him, on an Execution for Tithes, Cattle worth

From *Robert Gee*, *John Bull*, and *Robert Banton*, all of *Sutton*, was taken Corn worth

From *Samuel Clothier* and *John Cary*, of *Alford*

From *Henry Scrase*, *John Clothier*, and *John Beard*, all of *East-Liddiford*, to the Value of

From *Gregory Ceely*, *John Davis*, *Gabriel Davis*, and *Samuel Hipsley*, of *North-Curry*, and *Jasper Batt* of *Street*

l. s. d.

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5 18 0

8 7 0

7 8 6

76 17 6

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

On the 10th of November, *John Wride*, and *Robert Tutton*, of *Burnbam*, formerly in Prison for Tithes, were again committed to Prison, at the Suit of *Thomas Mompeyson*, Impropiator.

John Plumley, *Charles Plumley*, *James Plumley*, and *John Young*, for Absence from the National Worship, had Goods taken from them in this Year, at several Times, to the Value of 2*l.* 1*s.*

Remarkable
Case of T.
Hymans.

Remarkable in this Year was the Case of *Thomas Hymans*, of *Bridgwater* in this County, who having been robb'd on the Highway of 17*l.* 15*s.* appeared at the Affizes at *Glocester* to give Evidence against the Persons that robb'd him: But the Judge might not, in that Case, accept his Evidence without an Oath, and he, for Conscience-sake, refused to Swear.

Of his several Times of appearing before Judge *Levinz*, on this Occasion, take the following Account:

At his FIRST Appearance.

The said *Thomas Hymans* coming into Court with his Hat on, after some Time the Judge ordered his Hat to be taken off, and askt him, *Whether he would Swear to the Indictment?*

Hymans. No, because 'tis contrary to the Command of Christ to Swear.

The Judge then urged the *Mosaical Law*, and pleaded for the Lawfulness of Swearing.

Hymans. A greater than *Moses* is come, the great Lawgiver, whom all are to hearken unto: And the Voice which was heard in the Mount, said, *This is my beloved Son*, in all Things hear ye him, who saith, *Swear not at all.*

Then standing up to give Evidence, he was not admitted, but his Evidence rejected: Upon which he went out of the Court.

At his SECOND Appearance.

The Judge ordered the Oath to be tendred him.

Clerk. Lay your Hand on the Book.

Hymans. I will not.

Clerk. The Evidence you shall give between our Sovereign Lord the King and the Prisoners at the Bar, shall be the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth.

Hymans.

Hymans. I will not Swear, but I will testify the Truth, as in the Presence of God.

Judge. Take him away Goaler.

Then he was taken from the Bar, and put in a Place among the Felons, and made a Spectacle of Reproach to the People, and afterward carried with four Prisoners to the Common Goal.

At his **T H I R D** Appearance.

Judge. Bring forth Thomas Hymans: Tender him the Oath.

Hymans. In Obedience to Christ's Command, I cannot Swear, but I will testify the Truth, and declare as in the Presence of God; and if I speak otherwise, let me suffer equal with Perjury.

Judge. Why, I am sworn my self, and am bound to swear others in Evidence, and I cannot do otherwise.

Then the Judge ordered the Clerk of the Assize to draw up a Bill of Indictment against the said Thomas Hymans for refusing to Swear, prosecute, and give Evidence, which was done. The Grand Jury made some Hesitation about finding the Bill, but upon the Judge's instructing and persuading them, they did find it.

At his **F O U R T H** Appearance.

He was called to the Bar, and his Indictment being read, the Judge offered him the Liberty of retaining Council.

Hymans. I depend wholly on the Lord; let Truth and Innocency plead my Cause: In Obedience to the Law of God, I will not Swear, for the Law of God is of more Force with me to deter me from it, than the Law of Man to oblige me to it.

Judge. Do you think it is a Sin to Swear? Are you wiser than all your Forefathers?

Hymans. In Times of the Law, Oaths were lawful, as Christ himself, repeating sundry Things of the Law, said, *It hath been said by them of Old, Thou shalt not forswear thy self, but shalt perform unto the Lord thy Oaths; but I say unto you, now under the Gospel, Swear not at all.* And the blessed Apostle, who ratified and confirmed what his Lord and Master had said, and I believe knew better his Mind than the Pleaders for Swearing in this Age do, said, *Above all Things, Brethren, Swear not.*

Judge. You must not think to pick Places out of the Scripture. Clerk, Read him the Statute against those that refuse to Swear.

Which was done.

Judge. Why will you be such an Enemy to the King, to the Commonwealth, and to your own self; for here you forfeit your Recognizance, which must be levied on your Goods and Chattels, besides five Pounds Fine and Imprisonment.

Hymans. Judge Levinz, I desire thou wilt not insist on my tender Conscience toward God: Is it better to obey God or Man?

Judge. God.

Hymans. Here I offer to testify and declare, as in the Presence of the great God of Heaven and Earth, who is the God of my Life, and the God of the Souls and Spirits of all Flesh, and can call God to witness who knoweth all Things.

Judge. And why will you not kiss the Book?

Hymans. Which is greatest for me to kiss the Book, or call God to witness?

Judge. Call God to witness: But this is a Ceremony we make use of.

Then three Men by Force pluckt the Glove off his Hand, and laid the Book to the Back of his Hand, for he would not take hold of it, and so clapt it by Force to his Mouth.

At which there was a great Laughter in the Court.

Judge. 'Tis not a laughing Matter.

Hymans. What they have done is by Force. I had rather chuse to die, than sin against God.

Judge. Take him away Goaler.

VOL. I.

7 R

At

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1681.

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1681.

At his FIFTH Appearance.

He was set to the Bar with James Groves, one of the Felons.

Judge. Was that one of the Men that robb'd you?

Hymans. This, I do declare as in the Presence of God, was one of the Men that robb'd me.

Groves, standing by, said nothing.

Then T. Hymans was called up to the inner Bar, and the Oath tendered him again.

Hymans. I have no Reservation directly nor indirectly, but for Conscience-sake in Obedience to the Command of Christ, I refuse to Swear.

Judge. I believe they will Swear you robb'd them.

Hymans. Truth was before Oaths were; and Truth will be when Oaths shall end.

Judge. But Oaths are almost as old as Truth: I tell you but so, Friend; but I confess Truth will endure longest. Why will you run into these Troubles, and bring all these Things on your self?

Hymans. Judge Levins, I desire thee to do as thou wouldst be done unto. It is in pure Obedience to the Command of God, that I refuse to Swear; so that if I suffer, I suffer innocently.

Then the Crier pushed him with his Staff, and said Go back, and the Goaler took him away.

At his SIXTH Appearance.

Judge. Come, honest Friend, will you Swear yet?

Hymans. No. The same I said at first, I say now: I have said it already.

Judge. Well, what say you to the Indictment then? Are you Guilty, or Not Guilty?

Hymans. I desire to have it read: Which was done. I desire some Time to consider to have my Answer.

Judge. No; you shall have none: You shall give your Answer presently.

Hymans. Guilty of refusing to Swear; but to prosecute, give Evidence, and testify the Truth, I am here ready: Therefore Not Guilty.

Judge. Will you confess the Indictment?

Hymans. No; for then I should confess more than is true. It is an hard Case that I should be robb'd of my Money, in Peril of my Life, and now I am come to testify the Truth, should be put in Prison my self. Must the Innocent suffer, and the Guilty go free?

Judge. Well, I will give you all the Liberty I can; I will defer Judgment till at last: If you will Swear, you shall be presently discharged of all that is like to come upon you.

Hymans. I cannot Swear, let what Punishment will be inflicted on me. If I were confined to pass all the Remainder of the Days of my Pilgrimage here in Prison: I had rather chuse to die unjustly thy Prisoner, than to offend the Great God of Heaven and Earth my Creator.

So the Goaler took him back again till the Afternoon.

At his SEVENTH Appearance.

Judge. Honest Friend, will you Swear?

Hymans. The same I said at first, I say now: I have said it already.

The People urged him exceedingly, and the Grand Jury prest him very hard; but he continued stedfast, offering to give Evidence, but refusing to Swear.

He expected some Sentence of the Judge against him, but heard none. So he was taken away by the Goaler, carried to the Common Goal, and there close confined, nor could he obtain any Copy of the Cause of his Commitment, though often desired.

At a subsequent Affizes, held at Taunton, about five Months after, he was fined for the said Offence, by Judge North, five Pounds.

On the 9th of September, William Beaton, of Puddimore, died in Ilchester Goal, where he had been about twenty seven Months, on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, after a Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical Court, for not receiving the

the Sacrament, so called, at *Easton*, which Prosecution was carried on at the Promotion of *Edwin Sands*, Priest of *Yewell* and *Puddingstone*.

On the 14th of *October*, *John Davis*, of *Yeaton*, refusing to Swear, when summoned to serve on a Jury, was fined by the Commissioners of Sewers, and suffered Distress of two Cows worth 7*l.*

On the 29th of the Month called *January*, *John Coate* was fined 10*l.* for Meeting, by Justice *Walrond*. Soon after an unknown Person came to *John Coate's* House, took four Oxen out of his Stall, and was driving them away, when his Authority being called in Question, he could produce no Warrant, nor had he any known Officer with him, wherefore *Coate* took his Oxen and put them into the Stall again. A few Days after this, Justice *Walrond* issued a Warrant to apprehend *John Coate* and his Wife for Felony: Accordingly they were brought before him, who, though he could not make a Matter of Felony of it, yet sent them to Prison under Pretence of an high Misdemeanour, and for not finding Sureties for their good Behaviour.

The same Justice fined *John Cusse*, of *Aspby*, 21*l.* for being at two Meetings, for which his Goods and Chattels were taken, to the Value of 40*l.* and because the Officers did not forthwith expose them to Sale, the Justice fined them for their Neglect of what he called their Duty, and obliged them to pay 20*l.*

On the 12th of the Month called *February*, three Justices, viz. Sir *John Smith*, *Edward Gorge*, and *John Pigot*, Esquires, came to a Meeting at *Claverham*, and commanded the Friends, who were sitting in Silence, to depart, which they not doing, the Justices took their Names, and charged the Constables to keep them out of the House: They afterward issued their Warrant for Distress, by which were taken from *Arthur Thomas*, of *Barrow*, two Cows worth 6*l.* 10*s.* which the Officers sold to Justice *Pigot* for 5*l.* From *William Beakes*, two Cows of like Value, which, when the People refused to buy, were taken by Justice *Gorge* into his own Custody, till sold to a Brother-in-Law of his for 4*l.* From *Gabriel Davis* and *John Davis*, of *Yeaton*, Cattle worth 5*l.* And from *Samuel Hipley* and *Thomas Mitchel*, Goods worth 19*s.*

There were also fined, for being at the same Meeting, *Henry Moore*, *Samuel Jobbins*, and *Thomas Cooke*.

In the same Month *John Clothier*, of *East-Liddiford*, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 15*s.* for three Days Absence from the National Worship.

On the 8th of the Month called *March*, *Rufus Coram* and *Elizabeth Smith*, taken at *Crewkerne* Meeting, were committed to Prison for a Riot: And *William Smith*, taken at the same Meeting, was fined 10*l.* by the Conventicle Act, and soon after had his Goods taken from his Stall in *Cretokberne* Market, to the Value of 40*l.* as he believed, for he was not suffered to take any Account of them. The said *Rufus Coram* was detained in Prison till the Quarter Sessions, and was then sent back to Prison under the dismal Sentence of *Premunire*, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance. At which Sessions also, the like Sentence was passed on *Richard Grabham* for refusing to Swear.

In the same Month *Vincent Boldy*, *Richard Grabham*, *Joseph Hembury*, *Gilbert Willicomb*, and *George Godfrey*, taken after a Meeting at *Gregory-Stoke*, were, by Justice *Walrond*, committed to Prison. Also *Joseph Lye*, by Warrant from the same Justice, had Goods taken from him worth 13*l.* and sold to one of the Justices Servants for 5*l.* 5*s.*

ANNO 1682. At the Assizes, held about the End of the Month called *March*, the following Representation was presented to the Judges, viz.

“ To the JUDGES of Assize, in the County of Somerset.
“ The Representation of the People of God called QUAKERS, in Humility.

“ SHEWETH,
“ THAT we profess Faith in one only God, through our Lord Jesus
“ Christ, whom we worship in his Spirit, according to the Holy
“ Scriptures, and in the Leadings of the same, are taught to love God above
“ all,

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1681.

Case of John
Coate.

Officers fined.

Three Justices
came to a
Meeting at
Claverham,
took Names,
and issued
Warrants for
Distress.

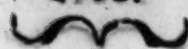
Imprisonments
for Meeting.

Sentence of
Premunire.

Sufferings for
Meeting.

A Representa-
tion to the
Judges of
Assize.

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE:
1682.



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Cote of John

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“all, and our Neighbours as our selves, and to lead a quiet and peaceable
“Life in all Godliness and Honesty: And do own King *Charles the Second* to
“be chief Magistrate of this Kingdom, and other his Dominions, as being
“eminently preserved, and brought into the Government thereof, by the
“immediate Hand of God: And do still resolve to be subject to him, and
“those in Authority under him for Conscience-sake, as good *Protestant* Subjects,
“truly desiring to answer the just End of Government, which is for the
“subduing of Sin and Vice, and Encouragement of Righteousness and Virtue.
“Yet notwithstanding we have been, and many of us are still exposed to
“such Perils and Sufferings as must inevitably bring many peaceable and
“industrious Families, who desire the Good of the King and Kingdom, to
“utter Ruin and Destruction, and that only for their pure Consciences toward
“God, (before whom we must all appear, and give an Account, and receive a
“Reward according to the Deeds done in the Body) and that by Laws made
“against *Papists*, or Meetings to plot or contrive Insurrections, under Pretence
“of religious Worship, and seditious Conventicles, which Principles and
“Practices we utterly deny and detest, as our peaceable Deportment under
“many great Sufferings by those formerly in Power, and since also, may suf-
“ficiently manifest, some few Particulars of which late Sufferings we have
“herewith annexed, presented to your Considerations (not being willing to
“intrude upon your Patience) for this End, that as Providence orders your
“coming this Circuit to do Justice, you may not be altogether unacquainted
“with our Sufferings, but may use your Authority to relieve the Oppressed,
“and put a Stop to the cruel Proceedings of our Oppressors, or at least dis-
“countenance such unmerciful Practices, that so ye may appear to be such as
“are a Terror to Evil-Doers, and a Praise to them that do well, which is
“truly acceptable to the Lord, and therein his Peace and Blessing will be with
“you, which is the earnest Desire and Prayer of the innocent suffering People
“aforesaid.

“JOHN COATE, RUFUS CORAM,
“JOSEPH LYE, GEORGE GODFREY,
“MARMADUKE COATE, WILLIAM SMITH,
“VINCENT BOLDY, ELIZABETH SMITH,
“RICHARD GRABHAM, JOSEPH HEMBERY.”
“GILBERT WILLICOMB,

The suffering Cases of which Persons were annexed to the said Representa-
tion: But it doth not appear that the Judges at that Time granted them any
Relief.

Seizure of T.
Smith's Goods
generously dis-
charged by
Esq; Doding-
ton.

On the 11th of the Month called *April* this Year, two Bayliffs came to the
House of *Thomas Smith*, of *Cbeddo*, an ancient Yeoman of good Repute, who
had been prosecuted for Tithes, at the Suit of *George Dodington Esq;* to a Se-
questration; they entred the House, and seized all his Goods, shutting him and
his Family out of Doors, telling him, that *He must go and agree with Esquire*
Dodington. The honest Man, knowing that in this Case he could not consent
to pay any Thing, procured another Dwelling for himself and Family, and
bore the Loss of his Goods with the Meekness and Patience of a true *Christian*
Sufferer. His Neighbours began to reflect on the Persons who had thus
turned an innocent Man and his Family out of Doors, and those Reflections
came to the Hearing of the Esquire, in whose Name the Suit had been carried
on: He considering the Man's Case, to clear himself of the popular Imputa-
tion of Cruelty on this Occasion, generously sent back the Key of the House
by his Servant to the said *Thomas Smith*, and restored him to the Possession of
all his Goods; his peaceable and quiet Demeanour, under his Sufferings, having
an effectual Reach upon the Prosecutor, and moving him to commiserate the
Case of a Man who gave so convincing a Proof of his being really conscientious.

On

On the 22d of the Month called *May*, *Christopher Holder* was committed to Prison; by Warrant from Justice *Hunt*, for refusing the Oath of Allegiance, and two Days after, at the Quarter Sessions, had the Oath again tendred him, which he again refusing to take, was recommitted till another Sessions, in order to a *Premunire*. There were at that Time continued Prisoners at *Ilchester*, *John Allen*, of *Bridgwater*, who had been close confined almost three Years, on a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, for not conforming to the National Worship; and *John Anderdon*, who had been there about six Years and nine Months under Sentence of *Premunire*, for refusing to Swear.

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1682.

Imprisonments
at Ilchester.

On the 28th of the same Month *Henry Walrond*, Justice, took the Names of the Persons assembled at *Ilminster* Meeting, and caused them to be brought before him the next Day, when he issued the following Warrant to be executed by the Constables of that Town, viz.

“ *Somerset* *Es.*

“ *HENRY WALROND Esq;* one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace
“ for the said County.

“ To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal at *Ilchester*, These.

“ **F**ORASMUCH as the Persons under-named, being of the Age of sixteen Years and upwards, were by me, and in my View, found present at an unlawful Meeting, or Conventicle, held in the Dwelling-house of a Person unknown in *Ilminster* in the said County, on Sunday the 28th of this Instant *May*; and forasmuch as every one of them hath been by me, this present Day, required to find Sureties for their personal Appearance at the next General Sessions of the Peace, to be held for this County, then and there to answer for the same, and in the mean Time to be of the good Behaviour, and they, and every one of them, refused to do it.

Warrant for
committing
many to Il-
chester Pri-
son.

“ These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to will and require you, on Sight hereof, to apprehend and convey the Persons under-named unto his Majesty's said Goal at *Ilchester*, and deliver them to the Keeper, who is hereby required to receive them into his Custody, and safely keep them until the said Sessions, then and there to answer the Premises. Given under my Hand and Seal the 29th Day of *May*, Anno Dom. 1682.

To the Constables of *Ilminster*,
These to execute.

“ **HENRY WALROND.**

“ **N A M E S,**

“ *William Rock*, *John Cross*, *Walter Giles*, *John Chorley*, *Robert Giles*,
“ *Alexander Key*, *John Mead*, and *Joseph Paul*, all of *Ilminster*: *Bartholomew*
“ *Alford*, and *William Waseby*, both of *Buckland Saint-Mary*: *Francis Wilkins*
“ and *Matthew Page*, both of *Chard*: *Richard Slade* of *Limington*: *John*
“ *Lambard*, *Josias Limbrey*, and *John Porter*, of *Thorncomb*: *Philip Paul* of
“ *Stocklinch*, *John Forse* of *Haselborough*: *John Voake* of *Finch-head*: *Joseph*
“ *Hembury* and *Nathanael Blawden*, of *Gregory-Stoke*: *Gilbert Willicomb* of
“ *Lynge*: *Henry Alway* of *North-Curry*: *Daniel Wyatt* and *John Farthing*,
“ both of *Dummatt*: *Joseph Garland* and *John Tucker*, of *Comb St. Nicholas*:
“ *Robert Wills* and *Giles Knight*, both of *Chiffelborough*: *Stephen Hartford* of
“ *South-Petherton*: And *Francis Wilkins* of *Cbilington*.”

It was usual with the said Justice *Walrond*, being Captain of a Troop, to come with his Soldiers, and break up the Meetings with much Violence: He would sometimes demand the Fines to be instantly paid upon the Place, which because they would not pay, nor, by giving Bonds, put Money for Fees into the Hands of his Son-in-Law, who was his Clerk, he sent them to Prison.

Practice of
Justice Wal-
rond.

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1682.

At Bridg-
water Sessions
29 Persons in-
dicted for a
Riot.

In the Month called *July*, at *Bridgewater* Sessions, twenty nine of the Persons who had been taken, by Captain *Walrond* and his Troop, from their Meetings, were brought into Court: Upon hearing their Case the Captain's Warrant was held illegal in committing them to Prison by the Conventicle-Act, which directed Fines and Distresses; wherefore the Captain and his Clerk caused them to be indicted for a Riot: Upon which Indictment they were fined 6s: 8d. each, and ordered to continue in Prison till Payment. One of those so committed was *John Wall*, whom the Captain had sorely beaten on the Head, without regard to Law or Justice, and he died in Prison a few Months after. On the last Day of the Month called *August*, the said Justice *Walrond* issued the following Warrant, viz.

“ *Somer set* is.

“ *HENRY WALROND Esq; one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace*
“ *for the said County.*

“ *To the Constables of the Hundred of Abdike and Bulston. To the*
“ *Tithingman, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor of Aishill,*
“ *and also to JOHN BURNEL, These to execute.*

Another
Warrant for
Distress.

“ **F**ORASMUCH as *John Cusse*, of *Aishill* aforesaid, stands convicted,
“ on Record before me, for being present at an unlawful Meeting, or
“ Conventicle, in a certain House called *Court-hall*, in *Ilminster* in the said
“ County, under Pretence of the Exercise of Religion, in other Manner than
“ according to the Liturgy of the Church of *England* is allowed, on *Sunday*
“ the 29th of *January* last past: And forasmuch as I have imposed on him
“ ten Shillings for his second Offence, and ten Pounds for the Owner of the
“ said House, being unknown: These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name,
“ to will and require you, on Sight hereof, to levy on the said *John Cusse*
“ the said several Sums of ten Shillings, and ten Pounds, by Distress and Sale
“ of his Goods and Chattels, and to bring the same to me to be distributed
“ according to Law. Given under my Hand and Seal the last Day of *August*,
“ *Anno Domini 1682.*

“ *HENRY WALROND.*”

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

By Virtue of this Warrant the Officers took by Distress, four Oxen, an Horse, and Utensils of Husbandry, worth about 30*l.* And for another Warrant of the like Import, they made a Seizure of Wheat to the Value of 20*l.*

In the same Month *Thomas Coombe*, of *Gregory-Stoke*, had been committed to Prison by Warrant from two Justices, grounded on a Certificate of Contumacy, on a Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical Court, for Tithes and Offerings, at the Suit of *Henry Owen*, Priest of *North-Curry*.

On the 3d of *October*, *Thomas Martin*, of *Chilton-Dormer*, was sent to Prison by an Attachment out of the *Exchequer* for Tithes, at the Suit of *John Stuckey* Priest, who had before taken, out of the said *Martin's* Fields, more Hay than the Tithe he claimed could amount to.

Distresses for
Absence from
the National
Worship.

In *November* this Year, Goods were taken for Absence from the National Worship, from *Anne Sheppard*, of *West-Peniard*, Widow, and *James Plumley*, to the Amount of 2*l.* 19*s.*

Deaths of
H. Gundry,
G. Ceely,
and S. Sayer,
in Prison.

On the 21st of the same Month, *Henry Gundry*, of *Street*, finished his Testimony against Tithes, by Death in *Ilchester* Goal, after about four Years Imprisonment; as did also on the 10th of *December*, *Gregory Ceely*, of *North-Curry*, about seventy five Years of Age, after about nine Years Imprisonment for the same Testimony; and on the 12th of the same Month, *Samuel Sayer*, of *Barnwell*, who had been a Prisoner more than six Years. Thus by abiding faithful unto Death, they gave the utmost Evidence of their Sincerity in the *Christian* Cause for which they suffered.

On

On the 16th of December, John Cusse was committed to Prison by an Attachment out of the Exchequer for small Tithes, at the Suit of John Teepe, Vicar of Aisbill.

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1682.

On the 16th of the Month called January, William Laurence, of Axbridge, being cited to the Arch-Deacon's Court at Wells, for his Absence from the publick Worship, appeared there before Charles Thurlby, the Arch-Deacon, and the following Conference past between them, viz.

Appearing of
W. Laurence
at the Arch-
Deacon's
Court.

Arch-Deacon. Have you been at Church lately?

Laurence. I come not hither to accuse myself.

Arch-Deacon. O! this is the Taylor: Come, we'll send you and your Goose to Ilchester Goal.

Conference
between the
Arch-Deacon
and him.

Laurence. I neither fear nor care what thou canst do to me: It becomes not an ancient Man as thou art, sitting in the Place of Justice, to deride such as come before thee in this Manner.

Arch-Deacon. Have you taken the Sacrament?

Laurence. What is that? I never read any such Word as Sacrament in the Scripture.

Arch-Deacon. I will tell you what it is: 'Tis the Lord's Supper; the Ordinance of Bread and Wine.

Laurence. I believe thou dost not truly know what the Lord's Supper is.

Arch-Deacon. 'Tis a fine Thing indeed, that we who have been at the University, and studied the Scriptures these forty Years, should be such ignorant sottish Fools as thou makest us to be.

Laurence. I have known those who have had their Education several Years, at Oxford, who have been as very Sots and Miscreants as the Nation affords.

Arch-Deacon. How do you know they were educated at Oxford?

Laurence. Because I have had it from their own Mouths, and their Ill-behaviour in their Lives and Conversations has manifested it. By the Fruits the Tree is known.

Upon this the Arch-Deacon appeared in a violent Passion, and Colonel Berkley, of Pill, and two or three others coming in, haled Laurence by the Shoulders out of the Court, and the Colonel himself dragged him into the House of the Bishop's Chancellor, named John Bailey, a Justice of the Peace; where after many reproachful Words against the Quakers, as that they were Rogues and Enemies to the King, and would kill them all, and such like, they tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, several Priests being present, and urging the Lawfulness of Swearing; while Laurence insisted on the expresse Prohibition of Christ, and the Necessity of Obedience thereto. The Issue was his Commitment to Prison, and his Continuance there nine Months. His Mittimus was as follows;

Tender of the
Oath.

“ Somerset sh.

“ FORASMUCH as William Laurence, of the Parish of Axbridge in this County, being this Day brought before us, and several Times tendred the Oath of Allegiance, hath refused to take the same, contrary to the Laws and Statutes of this Realm.

Commitment
of William
Laurence.

“ These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to will and require you, forthwith on Sight hereof, to receive the said William Laurence into your Goal, and him safely keep there until next General Quarter Sessions, to be held for this County, where you are to have him, the said William Laurence, there to be farther dealt with according to Law.

“ Given under our Hands and Seals the 16th Day of January, Anno Dom. 1682.

To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal
at Ilchester, or his lawful Deputy
there, These.

“ EDWARD BERKLEY,
“ JOHN BAILEY.”

In

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1682.

Distresses for
Tithes.

In this Year also, the Priests, and other Claimers of Tithes, took away in Corn, Hay, Apples, &c.

	l.	s.	d.
From Samuel Clotbier, John Carey, John Clotbier, Henry Scrase, Gregory Ceely, and Thomas Coombe, to the Value of	27	17	0
Gabriel Davis and Matthew Manning, of Yeaton	2	0	0
John Bullock of Walton, and John Watts of Nennett	3	10	6
Robert Baunton and Edward Perris, of Long-Sutton, and Thomas Smith, of Cbeddo	4	19	8
	38	7	2

The Christian Temper with which these Sufferers for Religion were endued, appears by the following *Extract* of a Letter from one of the Prisoners at Ilchester to a Friend in London, viz.

“ Ilchester, the 17th of the First Month 1682-3.

“ Dear Friend,

Extract of a
Letter from
one of the
Prisoners.

“ I Received ——— a large Account of Friends Exercises and Sufferings for the Testimony of a good Conscience toward God; and we cannot chuse but sympathize with them in their Sufferings, as we suffer for the same Testimony. Friends that belong to this Prison being about sixty in Number, and so have been for a long Time, expecting that more will be added shortly, as threatned every where: But through all we do see the good Hand and Power and Presence of the Lord with us, which is our Joy and Comfort, and he will thoroughly purge the Floor, and drive the Chaff from the Wheat, and so gather his into Everlasting Rest and Peace with himself. And the God of Heaven keep and preserve us all faithful to the End of our Days, that we may through all Trials come forth as Gold tried in the Fire, and fit for the Master's Use, and to be Vessels of Honour unto God. The Hearts of all Men are in the Hands of the Lord, and he can turn them as the Streams in the South.——

“ J. ANDERDON.”

Death of
Joane Combe.
Her Character.

ANNO 1683. In the first Week of this Year, being the End of the Month called *March*, the Assizes were held at *Taunton*, to which *Joane Combe*, an ancient Widow of *Gregory-Stoke*, aged about seventy three, who had been committed to Prison by Warrant from *John Pyott*, High-Sheriff, on a Presentment for not going to Church, was brought in order to her Appearance before the Judges, but when there, was not called into Court. In her Return thence, with the Fatigue of the Journey, which the Infirmary of her Age could not sustain, she died at *Creech*, on the first of the Month called *April* 1683. A virtuous Woman, of a cheerful and patient Disposition, and though weak in Body, strong in Spirit, and entirely resigned to suffer for the Testimony of a good Conscience toward God.

At the same Assizes, the Prisoners represented the State of their Case to the Judges, in Manner following, viz.

“ To the JUDGES of Assize at Taunton, in the County of Somerset.

“ A grievous Complaint of several People called QUAKERS, being about sixty in Number, Prisoners and Sufferers, inwardly and outwardly, for the Testimony of their Conscience toward God, at Ilchester in the County aforesaid,

“ SHEWETH,

The Prisoners
Case repre-
sented to the
Judges.

“ THAT several of them for many Years together, have suffered Bonds and Imprisonments, and many have suffered unto Death, who are taken away from the Evil to come.

“ And

“ And many now suffer, some for not Swearing, they being persuaded in
“ their Hearts and Minds to speak the Truth, and do the Truth, and *Not to*
“ *Swear at all*, as Christ commanded; and cannot believe any Man’s Mean-
“ ings and Interpretations, touching his Commands, to dispense therewith, but
“ do believe his Word according to the Scriptures of Truth, as the Lord by
“ his Spirit hath sealed it upon their Hearts and Consciences, which is the true
“ Interpreter.

“ And some suffer for not paying Tithes and Offerings which were under
“ the Law, which Christ being come, who is the End of the Law and the
“ Prophets, who hath offered himself up in the Eternal Spirit, the one Offer-
“ ing for all, and hath put an End to the *Levitical* Priesthood, Tithes and
“ Offerings, and hath set up a more Spiritual Worship and Ministry, and
“ freely gives Gifts unto them whom he sends forth for that Work. And
“ there is a Necessity upon such to preach the Gospel; and as they have freely
“ received, they freely give, and communicate of God’s Heavenly Gift given
“ unto them, without any Money and without Price. And we must confess
“ that Christ Jesus is come in the Flesh, and do own his Ministry and Wor-
“ ship that he hath established, which is in the Spirit and in the Truth, not
“ in the Oldness of the Letter, but in the Newness of the Spirit, which
“ Worship God accepts.

“ For which also, and our Meetings to wait upon God, many now suffer
“ by Fines and Imprisonments, and cannot conform to other Ways, Worships,
“ and Religions, than are according to what is written, and the Divine
“ Teachings of God’s Holy and Heavenly Spirit in their Hearts and Con-
“ sciences, which alone quickneth and enables to offer living Sacrifices and
“ Praises unto God, which God is well pleased with, and that his Son Christ
“ Jesus should have the Sovereignty and Power over the Hearts and Con-
“ sciences of People in the Ways and Worship of God, who alone can pre-
“ pare the Heart for God, who knows the Thoughts and Intents thereof.

“ And therefore, we having approved our selves, through all our Sufferings,
“ a peaceable People toward the King and his Government, we desire that
“ Liberty which the King hath been pleased to promise and grant to tender
“ Consciences: And that it being for no other Cause that we suffer, but for
“ our Consciences toward God, intending always by the Grace of God (as
“ hitherto we have done) to shew our selves a People of Peace, and Men that
“ fear God, and honour the King, and bear true Allegiance towards him, as
“ becomes true *Christians*. And in Order to our Relief and Release out of our
“ Bonds, we beseech you, who are Judges of the Land, to present our Sup-
“ plications and Requests unto the King, that so the Oppressed may go free,
“ and God’s Blessing may rest upon the King and his Government, which is
“ the Prayer of

“ *The QUAKERS who are Prisoners in Ilchester.*”

This Representation, however *Christian* and innocent, had no immediate
Effect, though by such Means the Austerity of Persons in Power was some-
times mollified.

On the 4th of the Month called *April*, Sir *Edward Philipps*, a Justice, being
informed of a Meeting at *Crewkerne*, sent Officers to bring some of the Per-
sons met before him. The Officers went and desired the Assembly to depart,
which they were not free to do. Whereupon they desired some of them to go
and speak with Sir *Edward*, and *Richard Lincoln* offered himself to go with
them; he being acquainted with the Justice, expostulated the Case with him in
Behalf of himself and his Friends, who continued their Meeting the usual
Time, and ended it peaceably: But by thus endeavouring to preserve the
Liberty of his Friends, he incurred the Loss of his own, and was sent to Prison
by a *Mittimus* in Form as follows, *viz.*

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1683.

At Crewk-
herne Meet-
ing.

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1683.

Mittimus of
R. Lincoln.

“Somerset *js.*

“To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal at Ilchester, These.

“I Send you herewithal the Body of *Richard Lincoln*, of *Crewkerne*, who
“was brought before me by my Order, for being at an unlawful riotous
“Meeting; and being demanded to give Sureties to answer the same at the
“next General Sessions of the Peace, to be holden for this County, and in the
“mean Time to be of the good Behaviour, hath refused to do the same.
“These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to will and require you to
“receive him into your Goal, and there to detain him until he shall find
“Sureties as aforesaid, or be otherwise discharged by due Course of Law.
“Hereof fail not. Given under my Hand and Seal the 4th of April 1683.

“EDWARD PHILIPPS.”

Distress re-
turned.

On the 11th of the same Month, *Christopher Moore*, of *Yeovil*, suffered Dis-
tress of Goods for Absence from the National Worship: And for the same
Cause *Henry Laver* had a Book taken from him by one of the Churchwardens,
but he returned it again the same Night, declaring, that *he could not be easy in*
his Conscience to detain it, though he had taken it by due Course of Law. In
the same Month *John Earl*, Priest of *Yeaton*, without any Warrant or legal
Authority, took away a Pig out of the Yard of *Gabriel Davis*, shewing therein
an avaricious Mind, unrestrained by any Regard to Law or Justice.

Commitment
of C. Holder.

On the 28th of the Month called *May*, *Giles Bale*, Keeper of *Ilchester* Goal,
came to a Meeting at *Billispoole*, and charged *Christopher Holder*, then preaching,
to desist, but he proceeded without regarding his Charge. After the Meeting
was over, *Bale* (probably before provided with a Warrant) took him and sent
him to Prison.

The Bishop's
Chancellor
encourages
the Rabble.

On the 27th of the Month called *June*, *Bailey*, the Bishop's Chancellor, at-
tended by a Rabble, brake in pieces the Benches and Materials of the Meeting-
house at *Glastonbury*, took away the Lock of the Door, and it was said, gave
Money to encourage Boys to break the Windows, and do other Mischief.

Distresses for
Meeting.

In the next Month, two Informers, one of them Clerk, the other Coach-
man, to the Lord *Stawel*, convicted several of being at a Meeting at *Long-*
Sutton, and procured their Master's Warrant, by which *John Bull* of *Long-*
Sutton, for a Fine of 10*l.* 5*s.* had two fat Oxen taken away worth 17*l.*
which they sold to a Butcher of ill Repute for 15*l.* for Men of a good Cha-
racter were not forward to buy them: From *Sarah Hurd*, of the same Place,
whose Door they broke open, they took Goods worth 5*l.* They also broke
open the Door of *Joane Nowel*, a poor Widow, and took away Pewter worth
10*s.* And from *William Witcomb* they took several Household Goods.

Violence of
Captain Wal-
rond.

On the 12th of the Month called *August*, *Henry Walrond*, a Justice of Peace
and Captain of the *Militia*, came with some of his Soldiers, and a Constable, to
the Meeting at *Gregory-Stoke*, where *Jasper Batt* was preaching. After some
Time he was silent, and they scornfully bid him *Go on*: He answered, *It is*
not meet to cast Pearls before Swine. Then the Captain took their Names, both
Men and Women. He let the Women go, but committed the Men to the
Constable's Custody, except four, viz. *William Calbreath*, *John Powel*, *John*
Crocker, and *Robert Button*, whose Words he took to appear at his House
next Day, requiring the Constable to bring the others also thither at the same
Time.

Having thus done, his Company fell to breaking the Windows and Window-
Shutters, also the Benches, Forms, and other Materials, which with the Doors,
they carried to a Green before the House, set them on Fire, and consumed
them to Ashes. The Value of the Spoil made was at least 8*l.* they sitting
by, drinking and carousing while the Fire burned.

The

The Captain and his Company being gone, and the Constable having no List of the Names of the Persons committed to him, nor any Warrant for detaining them, they went to their several Homes. Next Day those four, who had promised to appear, went to the Captain's House, who set one of them at Liberty, fined *William Calbreath* and *John Powel* 10*l.* 10*s.* each, and committed *Robert Button* to Prison. The Constable also came, and being ask'd, *Where his Prisoners were?* answered, that *He had no List of their Names, nor Warrant to detain them, and there being many other People present, he could not distinguish them.* Whereupon the Captain obliged him to give Bail to answer his Neglect at the Sessions, and gave him a List of their Names, and a Warrant to bring them before him, which he unwillingly executed, and within a few Days brought most of them, whom the Captain committed by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

SOMERSET
SHIRE
1683.

Commitment
of R. Button
to Prison.

“ *Somerſet ſs.*

“ *HENRY WALROND Esq; one of his Majesty's Juſtices of the Peace*

“ *for the ſaid County.*

“ *To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal at Ilcheſter.*

“ **F**ORASMUCH as the Persons under-named were by me, and in my View, found present at an unlawful Meeting or Conventicle in the Dwelling-house of a Person unknown, in *Gregory-Stoke* in the said County, on *Sunday* the 12th of this Instant *August*, and being by me severally required to find Sureties for their Appearances at the next Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held for the said County, there to answer the same, and in the mean Time to be of the good Behaviour, have refused so to do: These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to will and require you on Sight hereof, to convey the said Persons under-named to his Majesty's Goal, and deliver them to the Keeper aforesaid, who is hereby required to receive them into his Custody, and safely keep them until the said next Sessions, then and there to answer the Premises, if in the mean Time they shall not be delivered by due Course of Law. Given under my Hand and Seal the 14th Day of *August*, Anno Dom. 1683.

Mittimus of
11 Persons for
Meeting.

To the Tubbing-man of
East-Curry, These.

“ **HENRY WALROND.**

“ **NAMES,**

“ *George Fackerly, George Fowler, and David Ballam, of North-Petherton:*
“ *John Knot, John Shoobrook, William Chard, and William Chard junr. of*
“ *Michael-Creech: Hugh Dulburrow of North-Curry: Edward Warner and*
“ *Thomas Parsons, of Middlezoy: And William Elliott of Gregory-Stoke.*

The Captain obliged the Constable to pay 3*l.* for the Charge of being bound-over to the Sessions, and discharging the same. He then ordered *John Brangwell*, a Bayliff, forthwith to make Distresses for the Fines imposed on the said *William Calbreath* and *John Powel*. The Bayliff taking with him some Officers of *North-Curry*, broke open *Calbreath's* Doors, and seized about twenty Pounds worth of Goods. The Officers, to prevent the Bayliff's farther Proceedings, undertook to pay the Fines; nevertheless he came afterward, and took from *Powel* to the Value of 1*l.* 4*s.*

On the 29th of the same Month *John Bailey*, the Bishop's Chancellor, came again to *Glastonbury* Meeting, with Colonel *Berkley*, took the Names of several Men assembled, tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and sent them to Prison by a *Mittimus* in Form following, viz.

“ *Somerſet*

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE,
1683.

Mittimus of
10 Persons to
Prison for
Meeting.

"Somerset sh. "To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal.

"WE send you herewithal the Bodies of the several Persons here under-named, being this Day assembled at *Glaston*, in the County aforesaid, under Pretence of joining in a religious Worship, contrary to the Laws and Statutes of this Realm, and having been by us tendred the Oath of Allegiance, which they, and every of them, have refused to take. These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to will and require you, immediately on Sight hereof, to receive them into your Custody, and them there safely keep, till they shall from thence be discharged by due Course of Law. Hereof fail not at your Peril. Given under our Hands and Seals the 29th Day of *August* 1683.

"EDWARD BERKLEY,

"JOHN BAILEY.

"NAMES,

"*John Metford* and *John Mabson*, of *Glaston*: *Richard Cooper*, *John Cooper*, and *Abraham Clothier*, of *Shipton-Mallet*: *John Turner* of *Meare*: *Richard Grabham* of *Edington*: *William Hulett*, *Abraham Gundry*, and *James Clothier*, of *Street*."

Exorbitant
Seizures.

In the same Month *John Watts*, of *Nemnett*, had taken from him, for Tithe for *Charles Sims*, Priest of that Parish, eighty one Horse-loads of Wheat worth 6*l.* double as much as he could lawfully claim. About the same Time, the said Priest and his Servants took from *Robert Line* ninety Sheaves of Wheat, the Priest himself throwing down some of them with his own Hands, an Act too much like that of *El's* Sons, who said, *Give it now, or we will take it by Force.* *Sam. ii. 16.*

In like Manner *John Dory*, of *Batcomb*, had his Stacks of Wheat and Oats pulled down by the Servants of *Arthur Hearn*, Priest of *Blagdon*, who carried them away in what Quantities they pleased.

Furious Pro-
ceedings of
J. Helliar,
Under-Sheriff.

On the 2d of September was a Meeting at the House of *Daniel Holbrook* in *Chew*, to which came *John Helliar*, Under-Sheriff of the County, Captain *Twyford* and *William Higgins* of *Bristol*, with some Bayliffs: *Helliar* called out, *What do these People here?* And ordered them to search *John Hipsley* for Arms, saying, *He looks like a Rogue*, and using other abusive Language. Then he took their Names, and charged the Bayliffs to secure them, and went away, saying, *he was invited to Dr. Crofs's to Dinner*, which *Dr. Crofs* was the Parson of the Parish, at whose Procurement they came. About two Hours after, he and his Company returned, bringing some of the Parson's Faggots with them, and throwing them down at the Meeting-house Door, ordered the House to be set on Fire, to the Terror of the Neighbours: Then coming furiously into the House, he commanded the Friends to rise from their Seats, which they not presently doing, he ordered the Legs of the Forms to be cut off, struck *John Hipsley*, and pluckt him by the Hair of his Head: And one of his Associates struck *Joseph Taylor* with an Ax, and cut his Coat through, and bruised his Flesh, and pulled another Person backward by the Hair headlong: Then they carried out the Forms, and burnt them with the Priest's Wood: Then *Helliar* returned into the Meeting, and writ two *Mittimus's*; a Copy of one of them is as follows, viz.

"Somerset sh.

Copy of a
Mittimus.

"I Herewith send you the Body of a Man, middle Stature, reddish Hair, down-looking, about thirty Years of Age, who refused to discover his Christian or Sir-name; of another Man, of very black Hair and Visage, some Pimples in his Face, especially in the right Side thereof, who now saith his Name is *John Spear*; both the fore-named Persons being under the

"Guise

“ Guise and in the Habit of Quakers : And also the Bodies of *Nicholas Allen*,
 “ *Joseph Taylor*, *Daniel Holbrook*, *Hugh Croad*, *James Sterridge*, *Joseph Wade*,
 “ *James Little*, *John Watts*, *James Ford*, *Richard Walter*, *John Hipsley*, *Joseph*
 “ *Little*, and *Richard Greathead*, whom I have this Day arrested, with diverse
 “ others, in his Majesty’s Name, by Virtue of my Office, breaking of his
 “ Majesty’s Peace in a certain House in the Parish of *Chew-magna*, within this
 “ County, in that they, the Persons afore-named, together with the said other
 “ Persons, to the Number of above forty in the whole, some whereof refused
 “ to give their Christian or Sir-names, were unlawfully assembled and congregated
 “ together in the said House, in Terror of diverse of his Majesty’s
 “ Subjects and Liege People, and in Contempt of and contrary to the Laws
 “ and Statutes of this Kingdom, and them you are to receive into your
 “ Custody, and safely keep in his Majesty’s Goal at *Ilchester*, until they shall
 “ thence be delivered by due Course of Law : Whereof you are not to fail at
 “ your Peril. Given under the Seal of Office of *John Pigott Esq*, High-Sheriff
 “ of the County aforesaid, this 2d Day of *September*, Anno Domini 1683.

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1683.

To GILES BALE, Gent.
 Keeper of his Majesty’s
 Goal at Ilchester.

“ JOHN HELLIAR, Sub vic.

Another *Mittimus* of like Form and Date was made, including the Names
 of *Anne* Wife of *Joseph Taylor*, *Elizabeth* Wife of *James Sterridge*, *Margaret*
 Wife of *Richard Greathead*, and *Jane* his Daughter, *Elizabeth* Wife of *James*
Little, *Mary* Daughter of *James Cotton*, *Barbara Blagdon* Widow, *Mary Page*
 Widow, *Joane* Wife of *George Hanbam*, and *Elizabeth* Wife of *Stephen Harvey*.

Substance of
another Mit-
timus.

Upon which *Mittimus*’s, sixteen of the Prisoners were carried to *Ilchester*, on
 the 8th of *September*, and after their Journey, about eight at Night, were by
 the Goaler and his Wife, cast into the Common Goal among Felons, Men and
 Women together, where they were constrained to lodge on the bare Ground,
 in a nasty stinking Place, having not a Seat to sit on, nor so much as Straw to
 lie on : And to prevent any Accommodations being brought to them, the
 Goaler’s Wife kept the Key from the Under-Goaler till the next Day. The
 Prisoners now brought, with those who were there before for their religious
 Testimony, made up in Number ninety three ; to whom, on the 29th of the
 same Month, was added *Edward Blinman* of *Skipton-Mallett*, committed by
 Justice *Paulett* for refusing to pay 3 s. for Absence from his Parish-Church.

Prisoners
lodged among
Felons.

At the Quarter Sessions, on the 2d of *October*, the following Bill of Indictment
 was found by the Grand Jury, viz.

“ THE Jurors for our Lord the King do present upon their Oaths, that
 “ *John Hipsley*, of *Chew-magna* in the County of *Somerset*, Husbandman,
 “ *Joane* his Wife, *John Spear* of the same, *Nicholas Allen* of the same, *Joseph*
 “ *Taylor* of the same, and *Anne* his Wife, *Daniel Holbrook* of the same, *Hugh*
 “ *Croad* of the same, *James Sterridge* of the same, and *Elizabeth* his Wife,
 “ *Joseph Wade* of the same, *Richard Greathead* of the same, and *Margery* his
 “ Wife, and *Jane* his Daughter, *Joseph Little* of the same, *James Little* of
 “ the same, and *Elizabeth* his Wife, *John Watts* of the same, *John Ford* of
 “ the same, *Hester* Wife of *Robert Viccarice*, *Elizabeth* Wife of *Richard Vic-*
 “ *carice*, *Barbara Blagdon*, *Mary Cotton*, *Mary Page*, *Elizabeth* Wife of *Joseph*
 “ *Harvey*, and *Joane* Wife of *George Harbam*, the 2d Day of *September*, in the
 “ thirty fifth Year of the Reign of King *Charles the Second*, with diverse other
 “ Persons, to the Number of forty Persons in the Whole, with Force and
 “ Arms at *Chew-magna* aforesaid, in the County aforesaid, riotously, routously,
 “ seditiously, tumultuously, and unlawfully, did gather and assemble themselves
 “ together to disturb the Peace of our Lord the King, under Colour of exer-
 “ cising the Act of religious Worship, otherwise than by the Law of this
 “ Kingdom in the said Kingdom is established, in great Terror of the People
 “ of our Sovereign Lord the King, and in Contempt of our Sovereign Lord

Bill of In-
dictment.

SOMER-
SET-
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1683.

Trial de-
ferred.Distresses for
Meeting.Sundry Impri-
sonments.Convictions on
uncertain Evi-
dence of In-
formers.

Distresses.

Mittimus of
Jasper Batt
and 12 others
to Prison.

“ the King, and to the evil Example of his Majesty's Subjects, and against
“ the Peace of our said Sovereign Lord the King, his Crown and Dignity.

“ BENNETT.”

Thus under Colour of Law, were religious and peaceable Assemblies pro-
secuted as riotous, and Persons devoutly and quietly met to worship God, were
indicted as Authors of that Riot and Tumult which was made by those who
molested and abused them. The Trial of the Persons so indicted was deferred,
and they continued Prisoners till another Sessions.

For a Meeting in the House of *Abraham Clotbier*, of *Shipton-Mallet*, *Edward
Blinman* was fined 10*l.* and had taken from him a Rick of Hay worth 16*l.*
beside which, the Officers broke open his Door, and took several Goods, to
the Value of 3*l.* 17*s.*

For the same Meeting were also taken from *Jonas Nichols*, two Cows
and three Ricks of Hay, worth 13*l.* And from *Thomas Heath*, *Joseph Millis*,
the Widow *Plumley*, *Grace Whiting*, *Benjamin Feere*, *Nathanael Bryan*, *Joane
Bryan*, and *John Gane*, Goods worth 4*l.* 16*s.*

For the same Meeting *William Norman* was fined, and *John White* had his
Bed and Bed-clothes taken from him.

For a Meeting held on the 14th of October, at the House of *Richard Nowel*
in *Long-Sutton*, *Henry Maber*, *Edith Samway*, and *Margaret Board*, all of
Somerton, were committed to Prison by Warrant from the Lord *Stawell* and
Sir *Edward Philipps*, dated the 26th of the same Month. And on the 30th
of that Month, *John Peddle*, of *Somerton*, was sent to Goal by the Lord *Stawell*'s
Warrant for 3*s.* Fine, for Absence from the National Worship.

On the 11th of November was a Meeting at the House of *Mary Sayer*
Widow, in *Kewstoke* Parish: The Meeting being done, and the People going
out, two Informers came and took some of their Names, and then went to
the Justices, viz. Sir *John Smith*, *Edward Gorge*, and *John Pigot*, and swore
that there was preaching and praying in the Meeting, and that the Woman who
preached made her Escape; and that a Person was there who was not: They
also mistook the Name of the Parish where the Meeting was. Of all this
Falshood and Error of the Informers the Justices were told, and assured that
the Meeting was wholly silent, and had no Preaching in it. Nevertheless, they
proceeded upon the Informers Evidence, saying, *They were the King's Wit-
nesses*, and granted their Warrant for Distress, by which were taken

From *Mary Sayer*, Goods worth*Edmund Chapell*, a Yoke of Oxen worth*William Avery*, *William Amesbury*, *John Hucker*,and *Mary May*, Goods worth

l. s. d.

23 10 0

13 0 0

15 0 0

51 10 0

On the same Day, *Jasper Batt* was taken preaching at a Meeting in *Gregory-
Stoke*, and was next Day, together with twelve others of that Assembly, sent
to Prison by the following Mittimus, viz.

“ *Somer set* is.

“ *HENRY WALROND Esq;* one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace
“ for the said County.

“ To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal at Ilchester.

“ **F**ORASMUCH as it appears unto me, that the Persons under-named
“ were present at an unlawful Meeting, or Conventicle, in the Dwelling-
“ house of a Person unknown, in *Gregory-Stoke* in the said County, on Sunday
“ the

“ the 11th Day of this Instant *November*, and they being severally required by
 “ me, to find Sureties for their personal Appearance at the next general
 “ Quarter Sessions, to be holden for this County, then and there to answer
 “ the same, and in the mean Time to be of the good Behaviour, which they
 “ refused to do. These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to will and
 “ require you, immediately on Sight hereof, to apprehend the Persons here
 “ under-named, and convey them to his Majesty's said Goal at *Ilchester*, and
 “ deliver them to the Keeper aforesaid, who is hereby required to take them
 “ into his Custody, and safely keep them until the next General Quarter
 “ Sessions of the Peace for the said County, then and there to answer the
 “ Premises, if in the mean Time they shall not be otherwise delivered by due
 “ Course of Law. Given under my Hand and Seal the 12th Day of *Novem-*
 “ *ber*, Anno Domini 1683.

SOMER-
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To the Constables of the Hundred of
 North-Curry, and Tisbing-man
 of East-Curry, and to either of
 them, These to execute.

“ **HENRY WALROND.**

“ N A M E S,

“ *Jasper Batt* of *Northton*, Preacher: *William Fowels*, *William Calbreath*,
 “ and *John Powel*, all of *North-Curry*: *William Coombs* of *Gregory-Stoke*:
 “ *Philip Allen* and *Thomas Woolfry*, of *Taunton-Magdalen*: *John Tristram* and
 “ *John England*, of *West-Munckton*: *Thomas Taylor* and *John Cattle*, of *Fife-*
 “ *head*: *Walter Bult* of *Broadway*: And *Marmaduke Coate* the Younger, of
 “ *Hambridge*.”

Accordingly they were all carried to Prison, except *Calbreath* and *Powel*,
 who, after the *Mittimus* made, had Liberty granted till Sessions. A particular
 Account of this Commitment, and of a Seizure of the said *Jasper Batt*, is
 given in the following Extract of a Letter from him to *George Fox*, viz.

Ilchester, the 23d of the Ninth Month 1683.

“ Friends Sufferings are pretty great, and many Prisoners, and
 “ many more likely to come, who are engaged to appear at the next Quarter
 “ Sessions. As for my own Particular, the first Day of this Month, some
 “ Officers came to my House with a Warrant from him whom they call Sir
 “ *Edward Philipps*, on a Certificate from the Magistrates of *Weymouth*,
 “ for 20 *l.* for a Meeting there in the fifth Month past, and, in the Night-
 “ time, they took away all our Bedding, and some Clothes, two Beds and
 “ Bed-clothes of Friends that were Prisoners, who left it there, the House
 “ being near the Goal, with some Bedding also of our Land-lords: In all
 “ they took six Beds, twelve or thirteen Pillows, with Sheets, Coverlets,
 “ Blankets, Bolsters, Pillowbiers, and Warming-pan, with other Things, to
 “ the Value of about 25 *l.* and utterly refused the Return of that which was
 “ not ours, and we hear, have sold it for about 6 *l.* 10 *s.* That Night my
 “ dear Wife lay on the Ground by the Fire, with some Straw under her
 “ Head; nor can we with Safety receive or keep any Goods or Bedding in
 “ our House, not knowing but they will take it away. And on the 11th of
 “ this Month, I and other Friends were taken at *Gregory-Stoke* Meeting by
 “ *Henry Walrond*'s Company, a Captain and Justice, so called, and thirteen
 “ of us committed to Goal by him the next Day, for an unlawful Meeting or
 “ Conventicle, unto Sessions, two of them had Liberty till then. Eleven of
 “ us are Prisoners in the Common Goal; in that Room are twenty one in all.
 “ We are already one Hundred and seven Prisoners on *Truth*'s Account. We
 “ are kept close there, where the Felons must come to the House of Office:
 “ But this Day and Yesterday I have had some Liberty to come to my
 “ House, which is in a Stone's Cast of the Goal, but lodge there at Night,
 “ and my Wife also, having a Bed and Furniture sent us by my Son *Button*,
 “ (who

Extract of a
 Letter from
 Jasper Batt
 to George
 Fox.

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“ (who also is a Prisoner, but pretty much at Liberty at Home) the Goal
“ being the safest Place for it. However, I must lodge there, and in this my
“ Heart is glad, that I find my dear Wife greatly satisfied in these Trials, and
“ very chearful: Her dear Love is to thee. And this I can truly say, a
“ Reward we have, an Hundred-fold returned into our Bosoms, and in this
“ my Imprisonment I truly rejoice, having this Testimony from the Lord,
“ that I have not been fearful or slothful in the Lord's Work since he called
“ me into his Vineyard, and gave me Liberty, which he alone preserved, for
“ I was long thirsted after as a capital Offender, and doubtless a severe
“ Punishment intended, they say *Banishment*; but in the Lord's Power I am
“ over it all, it being my earnest Prayer to the Lord, that in all, my Heart
“ may be kept open to receive his Counsel, and be faithful therein, and that
“ none of my Testimony may fall to the Ground; but whatsoever it may be,
“ I may be preserved faithful to the End. Friends, Prisoners, lodging in the
“ Town, have Liberty to meet all in the Common Goal: Our Meetings are
“ precious, and good Unity is among us. I remain, ever desiring to be ac-
“ counted worthy to be a Labourer and Traveller in the Gospel, Kingdom,
“ and Patience of *Jesus Christ*.

“ JASPER BATT.

“ P. S. They broke open our inner Doors with
“ an Iron Bar. One *George Cleaves*, a War-
“ den, was the most forward, and very abusive,
“ calling Friends, *Quaking Dogs*, and *Rebels*.
“ He was a Soldier in *Cromwell's* Time, and
“ did then help to break up Meetings, and
“ take up Friends.”

17 Sent to
Prison from
Ilminster
Meeting.

On the 15th of *November*, seventeen Persons were sent by Captain *Walrond* to Prison, from a Meeting at *Ilminster*, namely, *Robert French*, *John Lombard*, *John Long*, *Walter Giles*, *William Stacey*, *John Rich*, *Daniel How*, *Giles Knight*, *William Watts*, *Sarah Osborne*, *Anne Collier*, *Susanna Garland*, *Elizabeth Ford*, *Anne Limbry*, *Elizabeth Limbry*, *Mary Sprake*, and *Edith Coate*.

On the 30th of the same Month, the Officers of *North-Curry* came to the House of *Dorothy Hunston* Widow, with a Warrant from Captain *Walrond*, to levy 20*l.* 15*s.* for her being at two Meetings: Finding little Goods in her House, they took an Heifer, which they sold for 40*s.* They represented her Case to the Justice, and two of her Children, not of her Persuasion, interposing, paid the Justice 8*l.* more, and so the Affair was compounded.

On the 1st of *December*, *Thomas Coombe*, of *Gregory-Stoke*, for Meetings, had two Oxen taken from him worth 11*l.*

On the 10th of the same Month, the following Warrant was put in Execution, viz.

“ *Somerset* *fs.*

“ *HENRY WALROND Esq;* one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace
“ for the said County.

“ To the Constables of the Hundred of *Abdyke and Bulston*; to the
“ *Tithingman*, *Churchwardens*, and *Overseers of the Poor of Whit-*
“ *Lackington and Broadway*; and also to *JOHN BRANGWELL Gent.*
“ These to execute.

Warrant for
Distress on
W. Bult's
Goods.

“ FORASMUCH as *Walter Bult*, late of *Whit-Lackington*, Worsted-
“ *Comber*, stands convicted before me upon Record, for being present
“ at an unlawful Meeting, or Conventicle, in the Dwelling-house of a Person
“ unknown,

“ unknown, in Gregory-Stoke in the said County, on Sunday the 12th Day of
 “ February, in the Year of our Lord 1681, under Pretence of the Exercise of
 “ Religion, in other Manner than according to the Liturgy of the Church of
 “ England is allowed. And forasmuch as I have thought fit to impose upon
 “ him the Sum of 10s. for his second Offence, and the Sum of 10l. more for
 “ the Offences of forty other Persons present at the said Conventicle: These
 “ are therefore to require you, and every one of you, on Sight hereof, to levy
 “ the said Sums of ten Shillings and ten Pounds, by Distress and Sale of his
 “ Goods and Chattels: And hereof fail not on Pain of forfeiting five Pounds
 “ a piece according to the Statute. Given under my Hand and Seal the 21st
 “ Day of November, Anno Domini 1683.

SOMER-
 SET-
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 1683.

“ HENRY WALROND.”

With this Warrant *Brangwell*, who was one of *Walrond's* Troop, and others, came to the House of *Walter Bult*, who was then in Prison, seized and carried away some of his Goods, and continued there till next Day in the Evening, carousing and drinking till they had wasted almost an Hoghead of Cyder. They carried a Rick of Hay to a neighbouring Alehouse, having first troden some of it in the Snow. They also took away two Hogheads of Cyder, which, with other Things, and the Spoil they made, amounted to the Value of 17l. 10s.

Revelling of
 those who
 executed that
 Warrant.

The Patience and Innocence of this suffering People was at this Time so remarkable, that their Adversaries would sometimes make a very unjustifiable Use of it; of which we have the following Instances, in the Conduct of the Wife of *John Earl*, Priest of *Yeaton*, who with her Servant-maid and a Boy, came to the House of *George Allen*, he being from Home, searched about from Room to Room till they found the Cheese-Chamber, the Lock of which they pickt, and went in and carried away twelve Cheeses worth 20s. In the same Manner also, they went into the House of *Gabriel Davis*, and took away Cheeses worth 18s. In such lawless Proceedings they thought they might be secure, having to do with a People whom they perceived, in the Cause of Religion, unwilling to avenge themselves by having Recourse to Law.

Patience of
 the Sufferers
 abused.

At the Quarter Sessions at *Brewton*, in the Month called *January*, the following Paper was presented, and read in open Court, viz.

“ To the JUSTICES of the Peace for the County of Somerset, at the
 “ General Quarter Sessions at *Brewton*, the 15th of the Eleventh
 “ Month called *January* 1683.

“ The Representation of diverse of the People of God called QUAKERS, in Humility

“ SHEWETH,
 “ THAT we are more than an Hundred of us Sufferers, above four-
 “ score being concerned to appear at this Sessions as Criminals, charged
 “ for the Breach of our Duty to God and the King. In Relation to God,
 “ our peaceable Meetings to worship him in Spirit and in Truth, are accused
 “ to be riotous Assemblies and seditious Conventicles, and our not conforming
 “ to those Worshipps we have no Faith in (and therefore were sinful for us to
 “ frequent) is called wilful and obstinate Transgression, and if we should for
 “ Fear of Sufferings conform, we must incur the Censure of gross Hypo-
 “ crites from God and Man. And in Relation to the King, because we cannot
 “ swear Allegiance; all which is only for Conscience-sake, in Obedience to
 “ the Command of Christ Jesus, for we own King *Charles the Second*, to be
 “ King and chief Magistrate of this and all other his Kingdoms and Dominions,
 “ that he was so eminently preserved and delivered in many Perils and Troubles,
 “ and by the mighty Hand of God restored to his Government, as former
 “ Ages can hardly parallel, and also from the several Plots and Contrivances

A Represent-
 ation to the
 Justices.

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against him since. That we have, and do resolve in the Lord's Fear, to perform faithful Allegiance to him, as becomes true *Protestant* Subjects. That we utterly deny the Pope, with all his false Doctrines and Retinue, Root and Branch.

And though the King was pleased to declare a *Liberty to tender Consciences*, to such as disturbed not the Peace of the Kingdom, and promised the same in the Word of a King, yet we are daily thus exposed to suffer, several of our Wives and Children being left as Widows and Fatherless, whose Subsistence depended much on their Husbands and Fathers Labour, of which, in great Measure, they are deprived: And many of us also, our Goods extremely wasted and spoiled by some Persons (as we have just Cause to think) who more regard their own Avarice, Indigence, or Envy, than God, the King, the Law, or the Poor; by all which the Everlasting God, the King, and Magistracy in general, is greatly dishonoured, and many honest and industrious Families in Danger to be ruined, and all this, because we dare not sin against God: So that we cannot enjoy our Liberty and Estates, unless we make Shipwreck of a good Conscience, and lose our Peace with God, and the Evidence of Everlasting Life hereafter, which is of more Value than all the World.

These Things in brief we have laid before you, and the Lord incline your Hearts to love and shew Mercy, to relieve the Oppressed, and according to your Power, set the Captives at Liberty. And in this God, who delights in Mercy, will be honoured, and ye from him receive a Blessing, For the Merciful shall obtain Mercy; which is the earnest Desire and Prayer of the People aforesaid, who are

The Lord's afflicted People, the King's faithful Subjects, and real Well-wishers to your present and future Happiness."

Proceedings as
the Sessions.

The reading of this Representation seemed to have some Influence inclining the Court to Moderation, as appeared by their Proceedings; for though Bishop Mew sat on the Bench, and endeavoured to incense the Justices against them, and Brangwell before mentioned, came thither on purpose to indict and swear against them, yet the Disposition of the Lord Fitzbarding, and others of the Justices, was favourable, for they had heard the Cry of the People, and especially of the Poor, complaining that they were like to perish for Want, being destitute of Employment, so many Tradesmen, who used to employ them, being shut up in Prison. At this Sessions the Persons aforesaid, taken at Chew Meeting, were indicted, the Sheriff had returned a Jury of the Neighbours to try them, but they were put by, and another Jury sworn, who yet brought them in Not Guilty. Bishop Mew got them sent out again, and Helliard and his Man gave Evidence against them, so that at length they were brought in Guilty of an unlawful Assembly, but not of a Riot; so that they were only fined 5s. each, and discharged of their Imprisonment. Those who had been taken at Glastonbury, Stoke, and Ilminster Meetings, were also called over, and discharged; except Jasper Batt, who was remanded to Prison for refusing to Swear. John Clothier and Richard Warre, Prisoners for not Swearing, were also discharged. Mary, Wife of Jonathan Allen, of Creech, Francis Brayne and Richard Hand, of Wrwelscomb, who had their Liberty upon Promise of appearing at Sessions, came accordingly, and were discharged; as were also, John White and John Hyott, of Shipton-Mallett, and Robert Banton, Robert Gee, John Bull, and Joseph Gaylard, of Long-Sutton, who appeared on their Recognizances. So that the Number of those discharged at this Sessions, was in all eighty three.

Many dis-
charged.

Christopher Moore, of Yeovil, being bound over to the Sessions by William Helliard, Justice, on the Oath of Dyer, an Informer, for being at a Meeting, where he was not, appeared; and was indicted by Dr. Dodsworth, a Physician, but a loose Liver: Dyer swore to the Indictment, and Christopher refusing to give Bail to traverse it at another Sessions, was committed to Prison.

On

On the 7th of the Month called February, Edmund Chappel, of Worle, was again committed to Prison, at the Suit of Samuel Willan, Priest of Weston and Kewstoke, who when they were discoursing on the Subject of Tithes, and could not maintain his Plea for them, plainly told Edmund, that he would answer him with a Goal, which accordingly he did.

On the 26th, Marmaduke Coate and Francis Scott were sent to Prison by an Attachment out of the Exchequer for Tithes, at the Suit of Robert Banbury, Impropiator: And in the same Month John Peddle, of Somerton, was also imprisoned on an Attachment for Tithes, at the Suit of Priest Westerdale.

In this Year also, were taken for Tithes of Corn, Pease, Wool, &c.

	l.	s.	d.	
From Samuel Hipsley, John Davis, and George Allen, of Yeaton, to the Value of	3	11	6	} Distresses for Tithes.
Henry Moore and Richard Thomas, of Backwell	2	0	0	
John Cary and Samuel Clotbier, of Alford	9	8	6	
Henry Scrase and John Clotbier, of East-Liddiford	10	10	0	
Abraham Gundry, Jonathan Tucker, Richard Brouse, Anne Gundry, Henry Clotbier, and Mary Stower, of Street	8	19	0	}
John Bullock of Walton	2	12	6	
Edward Perris, Robert Baunt, John Ballam, and Robert Gee, of Long-Sutton	8	8	8	}
	45	10	2	

On the 18th of the Month called March, John Clotbier was again committed to Prison for Absence from the National Worship: About which Time Giles Bale, Keeper of Ilchester Goal, going out of his Office, discharged two and thirty more of the People called Quakers, whom he had detained for Fees. So that the Number of them remaining in that Prison was now about thirty.

It happened about this Time that Vincent Boldy and Anne his Wife, were engaged to defend themselves at Law against some Persons who would have deprived them of their just Rights. But their Adversaries, to prevent their so doing, procured their Prosecution for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, and by that Means got them both close confined in Prison. Thus were the Laws perverted to the grievous Oppression of innocent Persons.

We shall close the Account of this Year with a remarkable Case of one Thomas Marner, of Street, who, when taken at a Meeting, had the Oath of Allegiance tendered him, which, through Fear of Imprisonment, the Threats of the Justices, and Persuasion of a Priest and others present, he took: His so doing quickly gave him very great Disquiet and Trouble of Mind, so that he could not rest till he had voluntarily writ and published a Recantation of what he had done; a Copy of which he delivered to John Bailey, the Bishop's Chancellor, being as follows, viz.

"THIS is to all whom it may concern, the Condition that I am in, to hear and read: That I am unsatisfied in what I have done concerning the Oath, which hath wounded my Conscience, and burdened my Spirit, and disquieted my Soul, that I am under a great Affliction and heavy Burden, and pressed down in the Consideration, and Weight, and Grief of this Sin, in breaking the Command of God. I do acknowledge and confess, that I am from my Heart, grieved and sorry for it: That I do abhor and lament the Day in which I did do it, and do confess before God and Man, that I am a wretched and sinful Man for it: I do pray and desire that God would give me true Repentance for it, and in his free Mercy pardon me in this my great Time of Need of his Help, in his free Love and Favour to save me, and give me a Deliverance for me in Time of Want and Necessity.

"THOMAS MARNER."

Thus

SOMERSETSHIRE.
1683.

Imprisonments.

Distresses for Tithes.

Giles Bale, Keeper of Ilchester Goal, goes out of his Office.

Perversion of Law to obstruct Right.

Trouble of T. Marner, who through Weakness and Fear took the Oath.

His Recantation.

SOMER-
SET-
SHIRE.
1684.

Imprisonments
on Qui tam
Writs.

Thus through Weakness and Fear this Man was led into Transgression, and thereby lost that Peace of Mind which he formerly had; but through the Mercy of God, and unfeigned Repentance, was again restored to Integrity and Faithfulness in this Branch of his Christian Testimony.

ANNO 1684. On the 8th of the Month called April, Sarah Hurd, John Bull, and John Ballam, all of Long-Sutton, were committed to Prison on a Qui tam Writ, for 20^l. per Month for not coming to Church.

On the same Day the Quarter Sessions began at Ilchester, when the following Paper was presented, viz.

“ To the JUSTICES of the Peace for the County of Somerset.

“ Diverse of the People of God called QUAKERS, in Humility

“ S H E W,

A Paper pre-
sented to the
Justices.

“ T H A T in Sincerity we own your Moderation the last Quarter Sessions, in relieving many of the People aforesaid, and do truly desire the Lord to reward you for the same. That many of us are yet exposed to great Sufferings, only concerning the Law of our God, because we cannot conform to those Worshipps we have no Faith in, and for not swearing Allegiance to King Charles the Second, which we must still assert is in Obedience to Christ Jesus, whom we for ever own as the Head and Lawgiver of his Church, and therefore ought to worship in Spirit and in Truth, as he hath ordained, and he is King of Kings, by whom Kings reign, and that all Power in Heaven and Earth is given to him, who is able to save and to destroy, and cast Body and Soul into Hell: Therefore we fear to disobey him. Yet still we own, as always we have, King Charles the Second to be King of this and other his Kingdoms, that he was even miraculously restored and delivered, and that we are obliged, and do resolve, in the Power of God, to perform faithful Allegiance to him accordingly: And yet, if we should Swear, to avoid Suffering, we believe that ye your selves would judge us but Hypocrites therein, and so have the more Cause to suspect us.

“ We therefore intreat you, let it not be a light Thing unto you, to require that of us, and punish us for not obeying, which in doing of, we must make Shipwreck of Faith and a good Conscience, and lose our Peace with God. And what Good then will our Lives do us? Or what Benefit to the King, or any of those in Authority under him to see our Ruin? We ever desire to live in a Sense, that you and we must die and come to Judgment before that God, who is no Respector of Persons, to whom we commit our Cause, our selves, and all we have, ever resolving, by his Grace, to continue faithful to him, the King, and all Men, desiring to lead the Remainder of our Lives in all Godliness and Honesty, really wishing your Welfare and Prosperity every Way.”

C. Moore
acquitted.

At this Sessions Christopher Moore, committed from the last Sessions for not traversing, was brought to Trial, and acquitted: And Dyer, the Informer, who swore against him, was indicted for Perjury, but through the Management of the Clerk of the Peace, the Bill was wrong laid, and the Grand Jury returned it Ignoramus.

Also Jasper Batt, Christopher Devonshire, and John Hipsley, were brought forth, and indicted for refusing the Oath of Allegiance, then again tendered them in Court.

Trial of
J. Batt and
others.

Jasper Batt being asked, Whether he was Guilty or Not Guilty? answered, That he did refuse to Swear only in Obedience to the Command of Christ Jesus, that he owned King Charles to be King, and did resolve to perform Allegiance to him accordingly, and was Not Guilty in Manner and Form as indicted, for he did not refuse to take the Oath maliciously, but conscientiously.

The

The Court said, *The Law required him to Swear*; and Sir Edward Philipps, the Chairman, advised him *to consider the Danger of refusing*, telling him, *that he would incur a Premunire, be committed to Prison during Life, forfeit his Estate to the King, and be out of his Protection*: Or to that Effect.

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Jasper Batt replied, That he had considered the Cost; that he had a Soul to be saved that was of more Value than all that, and he was resolved not to make Shipwreck of it, nor to lose his Peace with God; adding, *The Will of the Lord be done.*

Then the Court asked John Hipsley and Christopher Devonshire, whether they were Guilty or Not Guilty. To which they answered, That they were tried at Brewton Sessions, and there sentenced to pay 5*l.* or be committed to the House of Correction for three Months, which Time was near expiring, and that now they reasonably expected to be set at Liberty.

The Court took no Notice of that, but insisted on their pleading Guilty or Not Guilty.

They answered to the same Effect as Jasper Batt had done. So they were taken away, and had no farther Trial, nor was any Judgment in their Hearing given against them in Court, but they were sent back, and recorded on the Calendar as *premunired*.

Recorded as
premunired.

On the 22d of the same Month, John Alloway and Francis Hand were committed to Prison by the following Warrant, viz.

“Somerset *js.*

“To the Constables and Tithing-men of Wivelscomb in this

County, These to execute.

“FORASMUCH as John Alloway and Francis Hand, of Wivelscomb
“aforesaid, stand presented upon Oath by the Churchwardens, Overseers
“for the Poor, and other Officers of the Parish of Wivelscomb aforesaid, for
“obstinately refusing to come to their Parish-Church aforesaid, to hear Divine
“Service, according to the Form of the Statute in that Case made and pro-
“vided: And forasmuch as they refuse to give good Security for their personal
“Appearance at the next General Sessions of the Peace, to be held for this
“County, then and there to answer the Premises: These are therefore, in his
“Majesty’s Name, to will and require you the said Constables and Tithing-
“men, or some, or one of you, forthwith to take the Bodies of the said John
“Alloway and Francis Hand, and them safely convey to the Common Goal
“for the County aforesaid, and them there to deliver to the Keeper of the
“same, together with this Precept; commanding also you the said Keeper, to
“receive them into your Custody, and them therein safely to keep, until they
“shall be from thence delivered by due Course of Law: And hereof fail
“you not at your Perils. Given under our Hands and Seals this 21st Day of
“April, Anno regni Regis Caroli secundi 36^o Annoq; Dom. 1684.

Warrant for
committing
J. Alloway
and F. Hand
to Prison.

“JOHN SANFORD,
“FERRERS GRISLEY.”

Accordingly they were conveyed to Prison, and detained there till the next Quarter Sessions, and then discharged.

On the 6th of the next Month called July, some Persons being met together early at Milverton before the rest of their Friends were come, some Constables shut them up in the Meeting-house, and kept them under a Guard all Night. Early next Morning Justice Grisley came, and made out the following Mitimus, viz.

Some shut up
in a Meeting-
house.

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Mittimus of
several Persons
to Prison for
Meeting.

“ Somerset sh.

“ To the Constables and Tithing-man of Milverton, and to the
“ Keeper of his Majesty's Goal at Ilchester, or to his sufficient
“ Deputy there, These to execute.

“ FORASMUCH as it appears to me by the Oaths of several Persons,
“ viz. George Ferris and Abraham Rutley, of Milverton aforesaid, Constable
“ and Tithing-man there, together with the Constable of the Hundred of
“ Milverton aforesaid, that they did upon Sunday last find the several Persons,
“ herein under-named, unlawfully and riotously assembled together, in the
“ House of Thomas Upham in Milverton aforesaid, under Pretence of religious
“ Worship, contrary to a late Act of Parliament, intituled, *An Act to prevent*
“ *and suppress seditious Conventicles*: And forasmuch as they refuse to give
“ good Security for their personal Appearance at the next General Sessions of
“ the Peace for the said County. These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name,
“ to will and require you the said Constable and Tithing-man, or some of
“ you, upon Sight hereof, to take the Bodies of the Persons here under-
“ named, and them safely convey to the Common Goal of Ilchester aforesaid,
“ and them there deliver to the Keeper of the same, together with this Pre-
“ cept; commanding also you the said Keeper to receive them into your
“ Custody, and them therein safely to keep, until they be from thence de-
“ livered by due Course and Order of Law: And hereof fail you not at your
“ Perils, given under my Hand and Seal this 7th Day of July, Anno Regis
“ Caroli secundi 36^o Annoq; Dom. 1684.

“ FERRERS GRISLEY.

“ NAMES,

“ John Greedy, of Wivelscomb in the said County, Carpenter: James Satter,
“ Apprentice to John Alloway of the same: Joseph Pearce, of Milverton aforesaid,
“ said, Hosier: Thomas Langwell, of Bathe-Alton in the said County, Wool-
“ comber:
“ N. B. John Greedy hath put in Bail to appear at Sessions.”

The other three were conveyed to Prison, where they were discharged at the Sessions on the 15th of the same Month: But one of them, Joseph Pearce, was again sent to Goal about a Fortnight after, by the same Justice, for being absent from the National Worship.

On the 14th of the same Month Thomas Sibley, and others, were sent to Goal by a Mittimus in Form following, viz.

“ Somerset sh.

Mittimus of
T. Sibley and
others to Pri-
son.

“ I Send you herewithal the Bodies of the Persons under-named, for that
“ they stand convicted on Oath before me, and by their own Confession,
“ for being at an unlawful Meeting, or Conventicle, in the Parish of Crewk-
“ herne, the 4th Day of June last: And for want of Sureties for their personal
“ Appearance at the next Assizes, to be held for this County, then and there
“ to answer the Premises. These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to
“ will and require you, on Sight hereof, to receive the said Persons into your
“ Custody, and them safely keep, until they shall be delivered by due Course
“ of Law. Given under my Hand and Seal this 14th Day of July 1684.

To the Keeper of his Majesty's
Goal at Ilchester, These.

“ W. HELLIAR.

“ NAMES,

“ Thomas Sibley, Joane Coggan, Anne, the Wife of Thomas King, Hannab
“ Seawood.”

On the same Day *Giles Knight*, being cited to the Bishop's Court at *Wells*, appeared there, and was questioned about his Absence from Church, and not receiving the Sacrament. At length they sent him to the Bishop, who, with his Chancellor and Colonel *Berkley*, tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, and upon his Refusal to Swear, sent him to Goal. His *Mittimus* was thus, viz.

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“ *Somerfet* *js.*

“ *To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal at Ilchester, or his*
“ *lawful Deputy there, These.*

“ **W**E herewithal send you the Body of *Giles Knight*, of the Parish of
“ *Chiffelborough* in the County aforesaid, who being brought before
“ us this Day, and being there required to take the Oath of Allegiance,
“ (the same being legally tendred him) hath refused so to do: These are
“ therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to will and require you, immediately on
“ Sight hereof, to receive the said *Giles Knight* into your said Goal, and him
“ there safely keep, until he shall be thence delivered by due Course of Law:
“ And for so doing this shall be your Warrant. Given under our Hands and
“ Seals the 14th Day of July, Anno Domini 1684.

Mittimus of
G. Knight.

“ *P. BATH and WELLS,*
“ *ED. BERKLEY,*
“ *JOHN BAILEY.*

About this Time *Philip Allen* and *Francis Shepberd*, of *Taunton*, coming from a Meeting, were met by *Stephen Timewell*, a Justice of that Town, who obliged them to go before the Mayor and other Officers there, who, upon their Refusal to take the Oath of Allegiance, committed them to Prison, where they were detained three Weeks.

On the 15th of the Month called July, came on the Sessions at *Bridgwater*, where the Justices were presented with the following Paper, viz.

“ **B**ECAUSE of the Continuation and Increase of our Sufferings, we
“ thus spread our Complaints before you. We pray you, let the Op-
“ pression of the Poor be regarded by you, and shut not your Ear at the
“ Cry of the Oppressed. You are the Men, under God, to whom we make
“ our Address, and from whom we might expect Relief and Deliverance, and
“ are not without Encouragement herein, having in Remembrance, with
“ thankful Acknowledgment, that Justice and Mercy ye extended to some
“ of us at the late Sessions at *Brewton*. Oh, let the Bowels of Compassion be
“ still kept open to a suffering innocent People, and let not those Laws made
“ against *Papish* Recusants, be thus severely prosecuted against *Protestant* Dis-
“ senters; nor let those Laws made against seditious Conventicles and riotous
“ Assemblies, be stretcht forth against the peaceable Worshippers of God in
“ Spirit and in Truth, much less strained beyond the Letter thereof. For we
“ do not understand how a Meeting of three, a Boy under sixteen Years of
“ Age, and a Girl, only to worship God, can reasonably be supposed to be
“ a seditious Conventicle, or riotous, or an unlawful Assembly to the Terror
“ of the King's People, unless by such as fear where no Fear is. We are
“ truly a tender conscientious People, that desire to live in the Fear of God,
“ and keep a Conscience void of Offence in the Sight both of God and Man.
“ Give us leave to present to your View those noble Writings of King *Charles*
“ *the First*, to his Son our present King, viz. *In point of true conscientious*
“ *Tenderness, I have declared how little I desire my Laws and Scepter should*
“ *intrench on God's Sovereignty, who only is the King of Men's Consciences.* And
“ again, in his Advice to his said Son, viz. *Your Prerogative is best shewn and*
“ *exercised*

A Paper pre-
sented to the
Justices.

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“ exercised in remitting, rather than exalting the Rigour of the Laws, there being
“ nothing worse than legal Tyranny. Many more Sayings of the like Ten-
“ dency we could lay before you, with our King’s gracious Promise for
“ Liberty to tender Consciences, which for Brevity’s Sake we omit, not
“ doubting but that you may well know them already. And again, we beseech
“ you to relieve the Oppressed, and set the Captives at Liberty, some whereof
“ their Wives and Children are even exposed to great Extremity and much
“ Danger, near to Ruin, for want of their Assistance. And herein you will
“ not only farther oblige us to pray for your Prosperity and Welfare here and
“ hereafter, but also to bless and praise the Lord for you, in making you
“ Instruments for his Glory, and Good of his suffering afflicted People, which
“ is the earnest Desire of us, who are

“ The People of God, (as is well known unto him)

“ and true and loyal Subjects to the King,

“ QUAKERS.”

Several dis-
charged.

At that Quarter Sessions the Justices seemed to have an Ear open to the just Complaint of this People, and appeared so far favourable, as to discharge several of those who had been lately committed.

At the Assizes at Wells, on the 5th of the Month called August, the Case of the Prisoners in that County was more at large represented to the Judges in Writing, as follows, viz.

“ To the JUDGES appointed to hold Assizes and Goal-Delivery in the
“ Western-Circuit.

“ Diverse true Protestant Christians, and loyal Subjects, called QUAKERS,
in Humility

“ SHEW,

The Prisoners
Case largely
represented.

“ T H A T though we worship not in that Way which is commonly
“ practised in this Kingdom, and do worship God in that Way which
“ many call and account *Heresy*; yet both upon a conscientious Account,
“ having not Faith in the Former, and therefore were Sin for us to practise;
“ yet approve of that which is good; and the Spirit of Truth being come,
“ which we have received, are taught by it to pray and worship God. And
“ being fully persuaded, that it is an indispensable Duty that Christ Jesus re-
“ quires of us (who is only King of Men’s Consciences) to perform the Latter,
“ and would be likewise Sin for us to omit, desiring to lead our Conversation
“ in all Godliness and Honesty. And that we have and still do own King
“ Charles the Second to be King, and chief Magistrate of this and other his
“ Kingdoms and Dominions, who was preserved, restored, and placed in his
“ Government by the Hand of the Great God, who rules in the Kingdoms of
“ Men. And what other Power could thus have wrought Deliverance for
“ him? And that we have always, and do resolve to yield and perform faith-
“ ful Allegiance to him, as becomes true *Christians* and Men fearing God,
“ though we cannot swear it, and only because Christ commands *not to Swear*
“ at all. And the Apostle James, who well knew the Mind of his Lord and
“ Master, saith, *Above all Things, Brethren, Swear not.* That all Plottings,
“ Seditions, and Contrivings against him, be it by the Pope, his Party, or any
“ others, with their false Doctrines, and superstitious Ways and Worship, we
“ utterly deny and abhor, as our innocent and peaceable Conversations have,
“ and we hope ever shall, by the Grace of God, witness for us: And there-
“ fore why should not we claim the Benefit of our King’s gracious Promises
“ to truly tender conscientious People, we having never forfeited our Right
“ thereunto, and which he promised us on the Word of a King? Why
“ should

" should we be punished for absenting from those Worships, that we
 " should manifest our selves but Hypocrites to frequent, being otherwise per-
 " suaded of God? Why should our peaceable Meetings, only in Reality to
 " worship God in Spirit and in Truth, be rendred and punished as riotous
 " Assemblies, and seditious Conventicles, while nothing acted or done that
 " hath the least Tendency that Way? And why should not we have the En-
 " joyment of our Liberty, Relations, and other outward Comforts, unless we
 " break our Peace with God, and make Shipwreck of a good Conscience, and
 " so lose Everlasting Life? What Pleasure or Advantage can it be for the
 " King, or those in Authority under him, to see many industrious Families
 " exposed to Ruin, many of our Wives left as Widows, and Children as
 " Fatherless, and several poor Widows also exposed to Prisons and Spoiling
 " of Goods, and left mourning in Desolation, without Comfort, other than
 " what the merciful Hand of God affords them in their Afflictions.

" We humbly pray you, let these Things be seriously considered by you,
 " let your Ear be open to the Cry of the Oppressed, and Sighing of the Pri-
 " soners, and let the Cause of the Widows and Fatherless in true Judgment
 " come before you: Let envious and ignorant Presenters, and mercenary In-
 " formers and Persecutors be discountenanced by you, as we hope you are so
 " minded, being Judges of the Land: Let the Sword of Justice, which God
 " hath put into your Hands, be exercised for the Punishment of evil Doers,
 " and Praise of them that do well.

" A particular Account of the Sufferers, now Prisoners in *Ilchester*, is here
 " presented to your View: And we in Humility intreat you to use your Power
 " for the Relief of those that suffer for Conscience-sake: for a wounded Con-
 " science who can bear, who can heal? And farther, we intreat you to present
 " our Sufferings before the King, who hath been pleased thus formerly to ex-
 " press himself, *That he would not have it in any Man's Power to charge him*
 " *with the Breach of his Word.* The which we hope he still purposeth to
 " perform by his renewed Acts of Mercy, Favour, and Indulgence towards
 " us, who truly are a peaceable conscientious People that fear God, and
 " honour the King. The Lord guide you in Judgment, and give you Under-
 " standing to judge rightly, that so you may be truly honourable here, and
 " everlastingly happy hereafter.

" Which is the Prayer of us who are true Protestants, and Sufferers for
 " the Testimony of a good Conscience, as is well known unto God,
 " who is the Searcher of all Hearts.

" For Fines for Meeting: *Thomas Sibley, Anne King, Joane Coggan, and*
 " *Hannah Seawood.*

" For not paying Tithes: *John Wride, John Brice, Robert Tutton, Robert*
 " *Bullock, Marmaduke Coate, Thomas Hurd, James Popple, William Liddon,*
 " *and Thomas Martin.*

" Under Sentence of Premunire: *Richard Grabbam, Jasper Batt, John*
 " *Hipsley, Christopher Devonshire, John Anderdon, Christopher Holder, and Rufus*
 " *Coram.*

" For not going to Church: *Edward Blinman, Susan Alloway, William*
 " *Bond, Henry Mattock, John Clotbier, John Bull, Jo. Ballam, and Joseph*
 " *Pearce.*

" On Writs de Excommunicato capiendo: *Edmund Chappel, John Whiting,*
 " *John Parsons, Thomas Coombe, John Chappel, Thomas Powel, and John Allen.*"

Christopher Lodge, of Chard, was about this Time committed to Prison for
absenting himself from the National Worship: And for the same Cause were
taken from Samuel Clotbier, John Cary, Abraham Clotbier, Hustice Plumley, and
Anne Shepherd, Sheep and other Things, to the Value of 3l. 4s.

SOME 2
 SET 2
 SHIRE 2
 1684

for
 being
 in

of
 King
 duty

for
 refusing
 to

The
 Court
 more
 than
 the
 right

of
 the
 People

of
 the
 King

Imprisonment
 and Distresses
 for Absence
 from the
 National
 Worship

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Fines for
being at a
Funeral.

It happened this Summer that a Daughter of *Marmaduke Coate*, a reputable Yeoman, but one called a *Quaker*, died, and many of the Neighbours came to her Funeral. Information of this Burial was given to Justice *Walton*, and he sent his Warrant for several, and examined them upon their Oaths, who were at the said Burial: thus making them inform against one another. Whereupon he imposed Fines on several of the Neighbours, whom he obliged to pay 5s. each, amounting to

He also constrained *John Hulet*, an Husbandman of *Muckelny*, who was at that Meeting, to pay } 3 0 0
And from *Anne Tucker* of *Ilminster*, Widow, he } 5 5 0
caused to be levied by Distress }

Imprisonment
of J. King-
bury.

On the 21st of September, *James Kingsbury*, a Surgeon of London, being in the Street at Taunton, was taken by Officers, and carried before the Mayor, who tendered him the Oath of Allegiance, and because he refused to take it, kept him Prisoner a Week, and then set him at Liberty, with a strict Charge to leave the Town immediately.

Imprisonment
for refusing to
Swear.

On the 18th of October, *Edith Standerwick*, and her Daughter *Joane Farding*, of *Buckland St. Mary's*, so called, were carried to Prison for refusing to answer upon Oath to a Bill exhibited in Chancery, in a Cause there depending.

The Goaler
more favour-
able than the
Priest.

About this Time *Thomas Martin*, of *Chilthorne*, a Prisoner at *Ilchester* for Tithes, had some Liberty, by the Keeper's Favour, to go Home, being about two Miles from the Prison: The Priest, at whose Suit he was detained, observing this, and angry at it, procured a Warrant, by which he caused him to be carried before Sir *Edward Philipps*, who tendered him the Oath, and sent him the same Day to Goal, whither the Parson also went to see him brought thither.

Death of
J. Popple.

On the 21st of November, *James Popple*, of *Stawel*, died in Prison at *Ilchester*, after above ten Years Imprisonment there for Tithes.

Distress for
Tithes.

In this Year *Henry Clotbier*, of *Burnham*, for a Demand of about 8 l. for Tithes, had taken from him, at the Suit of *Thomas Mompeffon*, Impropriator, six Oxen worth 34 l.

Taken also for Tithes of Corn, Hay, Apples, &c.		
From <i>Samuel Clotbier</i> , <i>John Carey</i> , <i>Henry Scrase</i> , and	}	10 11 0
<i>Robert Banton</i> , to the Value of		
<i>Edward Perris</i> , <i>John Bull</i> , <i>Robert Gee</i> , <i>Elias</i>	}	4 13 5
<i>Osborne</i> , and <i>John Bullock</i> , to the Value of		
		15 4 5

At the Assizes held at Taunton, on the 16th of the Month called March, a Paper on Behalf of the Prisoners at *Ilchester*, was delivered to Judge *Montague*, being as follows, viz.

" To the JUDGES assigned to hold Assizes and Goal-Delivery, in
" the Western-Circuit at Taunton, the 16th of the Month called
" March 1684-5.

" Diverse of the People called QUAKERS in the County of Somerset, on Behalf of
" themselves and others of the said People, in Humility and Sincerity

" SHew,

A Paper, on
Behalf of the
Prisoners, de-
livered to
Judge Mor-
gan.

" THAT we have always exercised our selves to have and keep our
" Consciences void of Offence towards God and Man: That we are all
" obliged, and do resolve accordingly to serve and worship the Great God,
" the

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SHIRE
1684.

" the Creator of all Things, and Judge of all Men, in the Spirit and in the
" Truth, he having given us a Measure of his Spirit for that Purpose; that
" we owe, and do resolve to yield accordingly, due Subjection to such Magi-
" strates as God hath set over us, to the King as Supreme, and those in Au-
" thority under him, praying for them that they may so rule, as God may be
" honoured, they everlastingly happy, and we under them may lead our
" Lives in all Godliness and Honesty, according as God hath ordained, and
" hath been the Practice of the ancient *Christians*.

" That nevertheless, we have been exposed to great Sufferings, in our Per-
" sons, Liberties, and Estates, under the severe Penalties of several Laws never
" made against us, nor that Worship which we profess; and for not practising
" that Worship which we have no Faith in, and so were Sin for us to do.
" Several Thousands of Pounds will not balance the Losses by us sustained by
" the Act against seditious Conventicles; though we never frequented any, but
" always have and still do deny such Assemblies. We have also suffered long
" and tedious Imprisonments for riotous and seditious Meetings, which we also
" testify against, and our peaceable Deportment hath always manifested the
" same. And for not swearing Allegiance, which we have refused to swear
" only in Obedience to Christ Jesus, King of Kings: Yet have been, and still
" are ready to perform the same, and to give unto *Cæsar* his Due, as well as
" to give unto God his. And if we should break the Command of Christ
" Jesus, and so lose our Peace with God, what Good shall our Lives do?
" well knowing that we and all Men must give an Account, and be subject
" to the Judgment of the Eternal God.

" We therefore pray you to take these Things into your grave Con-
" siderations, and extend your Power to relieve the Oppressed, and set
" the Captives at Liberty, who suffer only for the Testimony of a
" good Conscience: And this being a Service required by, and ac-
" ceptable unto God, his Blessing and Reward will be with you therein,
" and we farther obliged to pray for your Welfare and Prosperity
" here, and everlasting Happiness hereafter."

This Paper was favourably received by the Judge; and he set several of
the Prisoners, then brought before him, at Liberty, viz. *Giles Knight, Joseph
Pearce, Christopher Devonshire, William Bond, Henry Mattock, and Susanna
Alloway*: Also *Edward Pole* and his Wife, and *Thomas Upham* of *Wivelscomb*,
who appeared on their Recognizances. Four others, *Thomas Sibley, Anne
King, Joane Coggan, and Hannah Seawood*, not being called in Court, lest they
should be past by without Notice, their Case in particular was presented to the
Judge at his Camber, near the End of the Assizes, being as follows, viz.

Several set at
Liberty.

" **THE CASE of THOMAS SIBLEY, HANNAH SEAWOOD, ANNE**

" **KING, and JOANE COGGAN, poor Prisoners to the Goal at Ilchester.**

" Humbly presented to the JUDGE of the Assizes, begun at Taunton the 16th
" of March 1684.

" **T**HE said *Thomas Sibley*, a Blacksmith, having a Wife and four small
" Children, and very little to maintain himself and them but his
" Labour.

Case of T.
Sibley and
others.

" *Hannah Seawood*, a very poor Widow, with three small Children, having
" been long sick, must perish, unless relieved by Charity.

" *Anne King*, a poor sick, weak, aged Woman; her Husband an aged,
" weak, poor Man, having little or nothing but his Labour to maintain them.

" *Joane Coggan*, an aged poor Widow, who formerly sold her small Estate
" to pay her Debts.

" The

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"The said Persons being poor and peaceable, with some others, being met together to wait peaceably upon God, and for no other Cause, were, with some others, by *William Helliard*, a Justice of the Peace, fined fifteen Shillings a-piece for the said Meeting, as an unlawful Meeting or Conventicle, some of which Fines were paid: Afterwards the aforesaid Persons, for not paying the said Fines of fifteen Shillings a-piece for the said Meeting, were by the said Justice committed to the Goal at *Ilchester* till the next Assizes, which was at *Wells*, but were not called forth, but returned to Prison to remain according to their former Commitment.

"We therefore pray that our suffering afflicted Condition may be affectionately considered, and we relieved, according as to Mercy, Equity, and Justice, shall appertain. The Relief of the Poor, Fatherless, and Widows, being a Service which is very pleasing to Almighty God; and we shall pray that he may reward accordingly.

"*Quere.* Whether it be legal to fine some for a Conventicle, and commit others to Prison for an unlawful Assembly and Riot, for one and the same Meeting, all being met peaceably.

THOMAS SIBLEY,

ANNE KING,

HANNAH SEAWOOD,

JOANE COGGAN.

Discharged.

The Judge having considered their Case, sent his Man to the Clerk of the Assize, and ordered them to be set at Liberty with those before named.

Death of
J. Anderdon.

On the 20th of the same Month *John Anderdon*, of *Bridgewater*, having been a Prisoner nine Years and eight Months for refusing to Swear, finished his Testimony by Death, about the sixtieth Year of his Age. *John Whiting*, who was some Time his Fellow-prisoner, and intimate Acquaintance, gives this Character of him, viz. "That he was an able Minister of the Gospel of Christ, of a sound Judgment, solid weighty Testimony, and grave Deportment; and left a good Report and Savour behind him, in the Town, and among all that knew him." See *John Whiting's* Memoirs, pag. 133.

His Character.

ANNO 1685. In the Beginning of this Year *Jasper Batt*, and others, incessant in representing the Injustice of their Suffering to those in Authority, presented the following Paper,

"To the KNIGHTS and BURGESSES, elected Members of PARLIAMENT,

"more especially those for the County of Somerset.

"Friends!

To the Knights
and Burgesses
in Parliament.

"BE pleased to excuse our Boldness in presenting you with this Address, who by the Appointment or Permission of him who is the wise Disposer of all Things, are chosen Members of the ensuing Parliament, so may have an Opportunity to give your Assistance for the Relief of the Oppressed, and Ease of the Afflicted; our Desires being no other than that we may enjoy those Rights and Privileges which, as true Christians and free-born Englishmen, do of Right belong to us: As Christians, it's our Duty, Right, and Privilege, to serve and worship that God that made us, according to the Persuasion of his Spirit in our Consciences, as Christ Jesus hath ordained: And though our Meetings only for that End have been render'd to be seditious Conventicles, and riotous Assemblies, such we have and still do deny, nor do we know that we have given the least Cause of Suspicion thereof: But these Jealousies (we humbly conceive) have risen from the Mistakes, if not Malice, of others, and not any Merit of ours: And on this Account have we been expos'd to great Sufferings in our Persons and Estates, contrary to our Right as free-born Englishmen, as we understand... And also for not Swearing,

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" Swearing, both our selves and some others have sustained great Damage,
" being hereby disabled to give our Testimony in some Cases of Difference,
" and also to bear such Offices as we might be capable of, and serviceable in,
" we being willing to take our Share of the Publick Burdens, and Services of
" common Concerns, our Refusal to Swear being only in Obedience to Christ
" Jesus: And if we break our Words and Promises, let us bear the same
" Penalty that others are liable to who break their Oaths. We therefore
" humbly desire, that we may not be denied that Liberty which Christ gives
" us, that we may not suffer by such Laws as were never made against us,
" nor the circumstantial Part of those Laws, which may burden our tender
" Consciences, whilst we are ready to perform the Substance, neither for
" practising that Worship which we have no Faith in; and so to omit the
" one, or practise the other, would procure to us a wounded Conscience,
" which who can bear? or what can heal? It being the Prerogative of Christ
" Jesus alone to rule there, and not in Man's Power to alter the Convictions
" which he there works, though through either inward Corruption, or outward
" Force, or Fear, he may act contrary thereto, as too many have done in these
" Days, manifesting themselves to be thereby but Hypocrites, and so not
" being faithful to God, are not fit to be trusted by Men. This is our Desire
" and Resolution to keep our Peace with God, and our Consciences clear in
" his Sight: For what would it profit us to gain the whole World, and lose
" our own Souls? And also to live peaceably with all Men, as much as in us
" lies, and as the Lord shall enable us.

" Give us Leave to put you in Remembrance of those excellent Sayings of
" King Charles the First, and King Charles the Second.

" King Charles the First, in his Advice to his Son, says, *In point of true
" conscientious Tenderneſs, I have often declared how little I desire my Laws and
" Scepter should intrench on God's Sovereignty, who is the only King of Men's
" Consciences.* And King Charles the Second, in his Declaration from Breda,
" says, *We declare a Liberty to tender Consciences, and that no Man shall be
" disquieted or called in Question for Differences of Opinion in Matters of Religion,
" which do not disturb the Peace of the Kingdom.* And much more to the same
" Effect. And so our Prayers are for you, that in this great and weighty
" Trust committed to you, God's Wisdom may guide you, and that you may
" be Instruments in his Hand for the exalting of Justice, Righteousness and
" Peace, in this Nation, and a Terror to evil Doers, and a Praise to them that
" do well.

" Signed on the Behalf of our selves and others of the People
" called Quakers.

The 28th of the Second
Month 1685.

" JASPER BATT,
" ELIAS OSBORNE,
" THOMAS WHITEHEAD,
" THOMAS POWEL.

On the 16th of the Month called June this Year, Christopher Lodge, of Chard, before mentioned, after above a Year's Confinement for not going to Church, died in the Goal at Ilchester, having endured his State of Affliction with Christian Constancy, Faith and Patience, to the End of his Days. For the same Cause of conscientiously absents from the National Way of Worship, John Melford, Matthew Stone, and Richard Cooper, of Glaston, suffered Distress of Goods.

Death of
C. Lodge.

Distresses.

On the 18th of November, Robert Bullock, of Clapton, who had been in Prison for Tithes above four Years, at the Suit of Edward Ancketyll, Priest of Wraxal, was discharged by a Superfedeas, obtained on the Death of his Prosecutor.

R. Bullock
discharged.

On the 19th of the Month called January, Thomas Powel, of Grinton, had four Oxen worth 21*l.* taken from him by an old Execution, at the Suit of

Execution.

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Tithes of
Corn, &c.

John Clotbier, Priest of *Grinton*, against *Ellinor Watts*, Widow, whom the said *Thomas Powel* had married. This Execution was revived by the Priest's Widow after his Decease.

In this Year were taken for Tithes, in Corn, Hay, Lambs, &c. in Kind,

From <i>Henry Scrase</i> and <i>John Clotbier</i> , of <i>East-Liddiford</i> ,	9	10	0
to the Value of			
<i>Samuel Cloibier</i> of <i>Alford</i> , and <i>John Cary</i> of <i>Charleton</i>	11	3	0
<i>Robert Baunton</i> , <i>Edward Perris</i> , <i>John Bull</i> , and <i>Robert Gee</i> , of <i>Long-Sutton</i>	12	10	6
<i>Robert Bullock</i> of <i>Clapton</i> , and <i>John Bullock</i> of <i>Walton</i>	2	6	0
<i>Abrabam Gundry</i> , <i>Jasper Batt</i> , <i>Thomas Marner</i> , <i>James Clotbier</i> , <i>Mary Stower</i> , <i>John Gundry</i> , <i>Rachel Gundry</i> , and <i>Anne Gundry</i> , all of <i>Street</i>	9	6	0
<i>Robert Willis</i> of <i>Chiffelborough</i>	1	6	0
<i>John Hipsley</i> and <i>Richard Vickris</i> , of <i>Chew-magna</i>	9	10	0
<i>Katharine Stone</i> of <i>Glastonbury</i>	0	16	0
	56	7	6

ANNO 1686. At the Affizes held at *Wells*, on the 30th of the Month called *March*, fourteen of the then remaining Prisoners at *Ilchester* presented their Case, as follows,

" To the Chief Justice HERBERT, and Judge WRIGHT, assigned to
" hold Affizes and Goal-Delivery for the Western-Circuit at *Wells*,
" for the County of *Somerset*, the 30th of the Month called
" *March* 1686.

" Several of the People called QUAKERS, now Prisoners to the Goal of
" *Ilchester*, in the said County, on Behalf of themselves, and many others of
" the same People, in Humility

" SHEW,

To the Judges,
a Representa-
tion.

" THAT since the wise Disposer of all Things hath ordered your
" Employment in this honourable Service, to relieve the Oppressed and
" deliver the Captives, and since King *James the Second*, that now is, hath
" committed Part of his Clemency to your Custody, to distribute the same,
" according as the Lord hath inclined his Heart; and having taken particular
" Notice of our Sufferings, and signified his Will and Pleasure, that we the
" People commonly called *Quakers*, should receive the full Benefit of his
" General Pardon with all possible Ease; which Grace and Favour we with all
" Thankfulness acknowledge to God as the chief Author, who hath the
" Hearts of all Kings at his Disposal, and to the King as being ready herein
" to mind that which the Lord inclined his Heart unto, and not without
" Hope to find the like Opportunity to render to you our hearty Thanks for
" the full Accomplishment of that which our God allows, and the King so
" readily grants us: And also hearing the Report of your Nobility and
" Moderation, in managing this weighty Trust committed to you, we are
" emboldened thus to address our selves, though in Plainness of Speech, yet
" in Sincerity of Heart to lay before you, that we have for several Years been
" Prisoners to the Goal aforesaid, not for any plotting against the King and
" Government, or Harm done to his Subjects, our peaceable Lives have
" manifested our Fidelity to the King, and Love to our Neighbours, it being
" contrary to our Principles to do otherwise; but only for Conscience-sake,
" in

“ in Obedience to Christ Jesus, we dare not Swear at all, or forbear to worship
“ God as he hath ordained, nor conform to those Worshipps we have no Faith
“ in, which, to omit the one, or practise the other, we should therein sin, and
“ so wound our Consciences, and break our Peace with God, and what Good
“ then should our Lives do us, if we might enjoy never so much of the
“ World's Favour and Friendship ?

“ Our humble Request therefore to you is, to consider and compassionate
“ our suffering Condition, and improve the Power and Authority that God
“ and the King have intrusted you withal for our Relief and Liberty, we still
“ resolving, and hoping through God's Assistance, for the future to manifest
“ our Fear to God, Honour to the King, and Honesty to all his Subjects, by
“ our godly, humble, and peaceable Conversation. The particular Causes of
“ our Imprisonments are herewith attested under our Keeper's Hand : And we
“ farther pray, that mercenary Informers, and envious Prosecutors, against us
“ only for Conscience-sake, may, according to your Wisdom and Prudence,
“ be discouraged from prosecuting such Actions, by which many industrious
“ and conscientious Families and Persons are in great Danger of being ruined,
“ and we encouraged in our Diligence in our respective Callings, and
“ may enjoy the Benefit of our Industry ; and so shall we be the better
“ enabled to perform with Cheerfulness the Duties we owe to God, the King,
“ and all Men.

“ The Lord guide you in Judgment, and more and more incline your
“ Hearts to love Mercy, and do Justice, and grant you the Reward
“ thereof, which is truly our Desire and Prayer.

To this were subscribed the said Prisoners Names, together with the Causes
and Length of their Imprisonment, viz.

“ On *Premunire* for refusing to Swear : *Christopher Holder*, a Prisoner four
“ Years and nine Months : *Richard Grabbam*, a Prisoner four Years and seven-
“ teen Days : *Rufus Coram*, a Prisoner four Years and nineteen Days : *John*
“ *Hipsley*, a Prisoner two Years, six Months, and twenty eight Days : And
“ *Jasper Batt*, a Prisoner two Years, four Months, and nineteen Days.

“ On Writs de *Excommunicato capienda* : *John Chappell*, a Prisoner nine
“ Years, two Months, and eleven Days : *Edmund Chappell*, a Prisoner three
“ Years, eleven Months, and twenty six Days : *Thomas Powel*, a Prisoner
“ nine Years, eight Months, and eighteen Days : *John Whiting*, a Prisoner six
“ Years, nine Months, and two Days : And *John Allen*, a Prisoner six Years,
“ nine Months, and four Days.

“ On Attachments out of the *Exchequer* for Contempts : *Marmaduke Coate*,
“ a Prisoner fifteen Years, seven Months, and twenty three Days : *Thomas*
“ *Martin*, a Prisoner three Years, five Months, and twenty seven Days :
“ And *Vincent Boldy*, a Prisoner two Years and seventeen Days.

“ On an *Exigent* : *William Lyddon*, of *Witbell*, a Prisoner fifteen Years and
“ one Month.”

Upon this Representation, the said Prisoners, though not carried to the
Assizes, were, by Order of the Judges, discharged from their long Imprison-
ments ; so that there remained, after their Release, only three of their Brethren
in *Ilchester* Goal, viz. *Thomas Hurd*, *John Wride*, and *Robert Tutton*, who still
continued there for not paying Tithes.

Two of the Prisoners now released had been for some Time cruelly used by
their Keepers, who took them, viz. *John Hipsley* and *John Whiting*, and put
them into the Ward among those who were confined there on Account of the
Duke of *Monmouth*, where they lay on Straw. They also put Hand-bolts on
them, so that they were link'd together, and could not pull off their Clothes at
Night but from one Arm, and let them hang on the other. In this Condition
they

Cruel Usage
of two of the
Prisoners.

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1686.

Imprisonment
of R. Button
for refusing to
Swear.

they continued above five Weeks, till the Wrists of *John Whiting* had the Skin worn off by Means of the Irons.

On the 12th of the Month called *April* this Year, *Robert Button*, a Grocer of *Taunton*, being Overseer of the Poor, appeared before the Commissioners of Enquiry into the Rebels Estates, upon Summons. They would have administered an Oath to him, which he refused to take, mildly telling them, *that he should do his Duty as faithfully as those who did Swear*. One of the Commissioners upon this began to examine him, *When he had been at Church, and when he took the Sacrament?* To which *Robert* answered, *That he thought he was not summon'd thither for that, and that he did not come to accuse himself*. Whereupon the Commissioners required the Mayor and another Justice present, to tender him the Oath of Allegiance, which they did, and on his Refusal to take it, committed him to *Taunton Bridewell*, where he was confined about two Weeks.

J. Goodson,
an aged Crip-
ple, imprison-
ed for Tithes.

On the 7th of the Month called *June*, *John Goodson*, of *Merston-magna*, was committed to Prison by an Attachment out of the *Exchequer* for not appearing to a *Subpœna*, which had been served on him but one Day before the Expiration of its Return; so that for him, a poor aged Cripple, to have appeared above an Hundred Miles from his Dwelling in that Time, was impossible. The Prosecution was carried on by one *Napp*, an Attorney, who threatned the poor Man's Ruin. The Suit was in the Name of *Sir John St. Barbe*, but for the Claim of one *Michael Raymond*, Tithe-farmer.

Attachment.

On the 18th of *October*, *John Clark*, of *Edington*, was sent to Prison by an Attachment out of the *Exchequer* for small Tithes, at the Suit of *Stephen Thorp*, sometime Vicar of *Morlinck*.

Imprisonment
for refusing to
Swear.

On the 5th of the Month called *January*, *Thomas Lea*, of *Gregory-Stoke*, being chosen Surveyor of the Highways, and refusing to be sworn into that Office at a Session of the Justices, had the Oath of Allegiance tendered him, and because he declared that he could not Swear, was committed to *Ilchester Goal*, although the Oath had not been read to him in Court. An Omission which probably made Way for his Discharge, after about six Days Imprisonment.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

ANNO 1688. On the 25th of the Month called *April*, *John West* and *Henry Clotbier*, both of *Burnham*, were committed to Prison by Attachments out of the *Exchequer*, at the Suit of *John Bower*, Priest of that Parish.

ANNO 1689. On the 17th of the Month called *August*, *Edith Coate*, of *Hambridge*, and *Marmaduke Coate* her Son, were committed to Prison on an *Exchequer* Process for small Tithes, at the Suit of *James Strong*, Priest of *Curry-Revel*. And on the 25th of *November*, *Ezekiel Coombe*, of *Gregory-Stoke*, was sent to Goal by a Warrant from two Justices, grounded on a Certificate of Contumacy, upon a Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes of about 5*s.* in Value, at the Suit of *Lewis Parris*, Priest. At whose Suit also *Mary Bond*, a Widow of *North-Curry*, was imprisoned in the next Month for small Tithes of about 20*s.* Value.

ANNO 1690. In this Year *John Evans*, of *Inglecomb*, *Robert Willis*, of *Chiffelborough*, and *Vincent Boldy*, of *Langport*, were severally committed to Prison for Tithes; the first at the Suit of Priest *Keates*; the second at the Suit of *Paul Clement*, a Priest; and the third at the Suit of *James Strong*, a Man of the same Function.

We shall close our Account of this County with a Summary of Tithes taken in Corn, Apples, Wool, Fruit, &c. from the Year 1686 to 1690, including both those Years, and also some former Omissions, viz.

Summary Ac-
count of Tithes
from 1686 to
1690.

At YEATON, from *Gabriel Davis*, *Francis Vincent*,
William Allen, and *George Allen*

And from the said *Gabriel Davis*, by a Sequestration,
six Oxen and two Cows, worth

	l.	s.	d.
	16	19	9
	27	0	0
Carried over	43	19	9

	l.	s.	d.	SOMER- SET- SHIRE. 1690.
Brought over	43	19	9	
At PORTSHUT, from Edmund Beakes, Richard Beakes, and James Beakes	26	17	8	
At GREGORY-STOKE, from Elizabeth Smith, Thomas Coombe, and Ezekiel Coombe	6	5	9	
At QUEEN-CAMEL, from John Higgins and John Fudge	11	7	5	
At CHEW, from Richard Vickris and John Hipsley	13	6	0	
At PORTSBURY, from James Hobbs, James Hobbs jun. Thomas Hobbs, and Andrew Batten	22	1	0	
At STREET, from Anne Gundry, James Clothier, Abraham Gundry, Jonathan Tucker, Richard Browse, and John Gundry	39	12	6	
At WALTON, from Samuel Runney, John Bullock, Thomas Shepherd, Mary Bullock, and Richard Cooper	32	18	5	
At HOLLOWTROW, from John Dando	6	17	0	
At KINGSDON, from John Beaton	4	15	0	
At CHILTON-DORMER, from Cicely Champion Widow, and Thomas Martin	12	12	0	
At PUDDIMORE, from Christopher Holder, and Grace Holder Widow	13	1	6	
At CHARLTON, from John Cary	7	14	0	
At CHISSELBOROUGH, from Robert Wills	3	8	8	
At CREWKHERNE, from George Beard, Richard Lincoln, and William Prior	6	6	0	
At LONG-SUTTON, from Robert Baunton	21	16	2	
At GRINTON, from Thomas Clark, Elizabeth Clark, and Thomas Powel	31	8	10	
At CHARD, from Elias Osborne	4	6	0	
At CONGEISBURY, from Richard Thomas	2	14	4	
At EDINGTON, from John Clark	3	8	0	
At LAMBROOK, from John Coate	16	10	6	
At WADMORE, from Gabriel Ballett	1	19	0	
At MEARE, from Hannab Champion and John Turner	2	15	0	
At NORTH-CURRY, from Mary Bond Widow	1	10	0	
At DULVERTON, from Sarab Holcomb Widow	8	10	0	
At ALFOFD, from Samuel Clothier	24	0	0	
At EAST-LIDDIFORD, from John Clothier and Henry Scrase	35	5	0	
At BREWTON, from Laurence Hartrey and Thomas Whitehead	2	17	0	
Taken also in this County From John Stower, Thomas Marner, Jasper Batt, Arthur Jeffery, John Bull, Edward Perris, and Robert Gee	47	12	4	
Mary Stower, John Bryant, Robert Bullock, Mat- thew Stower, Thomas Lea, John Nott, and William Ames	14	7	4	
John Long, Robert Bullock, Henry Beaton, Hugh Croad, Richard Thomas, and William Richards	7	18	8	
William Witcomb, Thomas Browning, Richard Slade, John Wilmington, Henry Alloway, and the Widow Jones	4	1	6	
	482	2	4	

STAFFORD
SHIRE.

1655.

G H A P. XXXI.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

ANNO 1655.

Sufferings of
R. Dale,

W. Yardly,

M. Bateman,

and M. Wen-
ington.Suffering for
not Swearing,
and for Tithes.

ONE of the earliest Sufferers of this People in the County of Stafford was *Richard Dale*, about seventy Years of Age, who being under a pressing Concern of Mind to publish to the People the Excellency and Spirituality of the true Gospel-Worship, went into the Steeple-house at *Leek*, where beginning to speak to the Assembly, he was laid violent Hands on, dragged out, and carried before a Justice, who committed him to Prison, where he was detained about three Weeks. Soon after his Discharge, *William Yardly* bearing the like Testimony in the same Place, was sent to Prison, and close confined nineteen Weeks, seventeen of which he lay on the bare Floor, the cruel Keeper not suffering so much as Straw to be brought in for him to lie on. The Fervency of Affection which then united this People was such, as induced *Miles Bateman*, a Man of good Repute, to travel about an Hundred Miles from Home to visit his Friends in *Stafford Goal*, where he was, by the Mayor's Order, detained, twice whipt, and otherwise barbarously used, though he had not transgressed any Law, either of God or Man. During his Confinement, *Miles Wenington* came to the Prison to visit him, and went also to the Mayor to expostulate with him in Christian Meekness concerning the Injustice done to his suffering Friend; for which Act of Brotherly Love, the incensed Magistrate also sent him to Prison, and caused him to be cruelly whipt. So criminal in those Times was it accounted to visit or speak in Behalf of the Oppressed.

ANNO 1658. In this Year *William Reading*, being summoned to appear by Way of Evidence at the Assizes, and refusing to Swear, was fined, and had his Goods taken away to the Value of 27 s. Also *Robert Miller*, for 1 l. 6 s. 8 d. demanded of him for Tithes, suffered Distress of a Cow worth 4 l.

ANNO 1660. Taken by Distress for Tithes,

Distresses for Tithes.	From	Demanded			Goods worth		
		l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
	<i>Robert Miller</i> , for	3	9	4	15	10	0
	<i>Mary Kent</i> Widow	0	13	0	4	10	0
	<i>Peter Littleton</i>	0	7	0	4	0	0
	<i>Thomas Woolrich</i>	0	4	6	2	9	0
	For	4	13	10	Taken	26	9 0

Sufferings for
several Causes.

In this Year *Richard Buxton*, for refusing to pay Tithes, suffered twenty three Weeks Imprisonment. Also *Henry Bowman*, for the same Cause, was committed to *Stafford Goal*, where he lay a Year and seven Months, though the Tithe demanded of him was not above 12 s. in Value. About the same Time *Simon Buxton*, for a Demand of 2 s. for repairing the Parish Worship-house, suffered Distress of his Goods to eight Times that Value.

Many, after
grievous
Abuses, sent
to Prison for
refusing to
swear.

ANNO 1661. In this and the latter Part of the preceding Year, one Hundred and eighty three Persons were taken, some from their peaceable Meetings, and others from their Houses and Employments, after manifold Beatings and Abuses from the rude Soldiers usually employed in that Service, and committed to Prison for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, which Refusal

Refusal was only the Consequence of their religious Obedience to the Precept of Christ, *Swear not at all.* Some of their Names were, *John Griffin, Robert Miller, Thomas Tomlinson, Robert Bullock, Andrew Dale, Hugh Waterhouse, William Grindy, William Clowes, Richard Hall, John Scott, William Jones, John Brindley, Simon Buxton, John Oliver, William Charlsworth, Edward Seele, Hugh Lown, Humphry Woolrich, John Bancroft, Roger Ockenden, John Finnie, Joshua Dale, Simon Smith, Anthony Bowman, John Steward, Thomas Woolrich, Joseph Taylor, Thomas Grindy, Thomas Hall, and William Launt.*

Several of the Persons committed, had their Cattle or Goods taken by Distress for the Charges of carrying themselves or others to Goal, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
<i>Thomas Bowley and Richard Buxton, to the Value of</i>	4	3	0
<i>Joseph Grindy, Richard Adams, and Henry Bowman</i>	1	8	0
<i>John Hall, George Hayworth, and Thomas Hamersley</i>	1	9	0
	7	0	0

Distresses for Charges of carrying them to Goal.

The Meetings, from which many of them were taken, were held at several Friends Houses, viz. *Robert Fernbough's at Ipstones, Richard Buxton's at Grindon, William Davenport's at the Field, Henry Fyde's at Midgbury, Joseph Taylor's at Ipstones, and John Hall's at Morrage.*

Thomas Burnet, for refusing to take the Oaths, when tendred him, was committed to the House of Correction.

Commitment for refusing to Swear.

In this Year *Peter Littleton*, for a Claim of 5s. for Tithes, suffered Distress of his Goods, to the Value of 3l. 10s.

Distress for Tithes.

ANNO 1662. At the Affizes this Year, *Thomas Taylor*, then a Prisoner in *Stafford Goal*, for refusing to Swear, had Sentence of *Premunire* passed upon him, under which he continued a Prisoner about ten Years.

T. Taylor Premunired.

ANNO 1663. *Anthony Bowman*, for refusing to pay a Fine of 4s. for Absence from the publick Worship, was committed to Prison: *Simon Buxton*, of *Butterton*, for the same Cause, suffered Distress of Sheep worth 34s. And *Henry Bowman*, for the like Absence of himself and his Wife, had Goods taken from him worth 18s.

Fines for Absence from the publick Worship.

About this Time *Alice Bowman*, for giving some *Christian Exhortation* to the People, when met to receive what they called the *Sacrament*, was sent to Prison till the Sessions, and then committed to the House of Correction, having with her a sucking Child, which fell sick, and died there.

Imprisonment of A. Bowman.

ANNO 1664. Nineteen Persons, taken at their religious Meetings in this County, were committed to Prison on the Act for Banishment: And in this Year also, *Henry Bowman* suffered Distress of Goods for refusing to Swear when summoned on a Jury.

19 Sent to Prison on the Act for Banishment.

ANNO 1665. *Peter Littleton*, for a Demand of 20s. for Tithes, had Goods taken from him worth 4l.

Distress for Tithes.

ANNO 1666. *Peter Littleton*, of *Houghton*, suffered three Months Imprisonment for Tithes, at the Suit of Priest *Fletcher*: He also suffered Distress of two *Bullocks* worth 4l. for a Demand of 20s. for Tithes.

In this Year were taken by Distress, for religious Meetings,

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>Vincent Hearwood</i> , of <i>Keele</i> , and <i>William</i> , his Son, } Goods worth	4	10	0
<i>Humphry Morgan</i> , of the same Place	3	13	0
<i>Margaret Lawton, Humphry Woolrich, and Isaac Baddely</i> }	0	15	0
<i>Humphry Morgan</i> , and <i>Katharine</i> , his Wife	0	10	0
<i>John Stretch</i> , of <i>Harper's-Gate</i> in <i>Horton</i>	16	0	0
	25	8	0

Distresses for Meetings.

STAFFORD-
SHIRE.
1666.

Justice done
on an Appeal.

Distresses for
Absence from
the National
Worship.

Imprisonment
for Meeting,
and refusing
to Swear.

Release of
Prisoners.

Persecution at
Stafford.

Sufferings for
Meeting.

P. Littleton
discharged by
Act of Parlia-
ment, but re-
committed for
the same Cause
by the Bishop.

A merciless
Priest.

Distresses for
Tithes, &c.

John Buddely, of *Knutton*, on a false Information had his Goods distrained for another Person's Offence, to the Value of 10*l.* whereupon he appealed to the Quarter Sessions, and after a considerable Charge, had his 10*l.* returned. This Instance of Justice on an Appeal was extraordinary, and almost singular in those Times.

Vincent Heawood, and his Son *William*, for Fines on them for Absence from the National Worship, had Goods taken away to the Value of 16*s.* And for the same Cause, *Thomas Woolrich*, *Peter Littleton*, *John Till*, *Edward Scotson*, and *James Kendal*, were committed to Prison.

ANNO 1669. On the 12th of September, *Thomas Hamersly*, *Robert Miller*, *John Stretch*, *William Heath*, and *Joshua Dale*, taken at a Meeting in the said *Thomas Hamersly's* House at *Basford*, were carried by two Apparitors and a Constable to one Justice *Parker*, who took their Words to appear before himself and others at a Sessions at *Cheadle* on the 14th of the next Month. They appeared accordingly, and had the Oath of Allegiance tendred them; upon Refusal of which, they were committed to Prison. The *Mittimus* was given to the Constable of *Cheadle* to convey them to Goal, and he, conscious of their Innocence, asked one of the Justices, *Whether he might not let them go Home till the next Morning?* To which the Justice answered, *Wouldst thou have our Throats cut in our Beds?* A weak and groundless Insinuation, as if any such Danger could probably be from Men whom they had trusted above a Month upon their Parole, and who appeared accordingly.

ANNO 1672. In this Year King *Charles the Second* issued his Letters Patent for a general Discharge of the People called *Quakers*, then in Prison for diverse Causes therein mentioned; in Consequence of which, *Thomas Taylor*, *Thomas Woolrich*, *Peter Littleton*, *Edward Scotson*, *John Till*, and *James Kendall*, were set at Liberty; the first of them after ten Years, and the other five after about six Years Imprisonment.

ANNO 1674. The Meetings of this People in the Town of *Stafford* were several Times molested by *Thomas Ward*, then Mayor, and his Officers: He sent one of them to Prison for Preaching, and another for a Misdemeanour in telling him a displeasing Truth, viz. that *Persecution was of the Devil*.

ANNO 1675. *Robert Miller*, *Thomas Hamersly*, *Joshua Dale*, *John Stretch*, and *William Heath*, were imprisoned for religiously assembling together: And for the same Cause they, and others in this County, had Goods taken from them to the Value of 75*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*

In this Year *Peter Littleton* was again committed to Prison by a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo*, at the Suit of *Thomas Fletcher*, Priest of *Houghton*, for Tithes, and remained Prisoner till the Summer Affizes following, and then was set at Liberty by Means of an Act of Indemnity; but soon after was again committed on the Statute of 27 *Hen. 8.* by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of *John Martin*, Mayor of *Stafford*, and *Francis Mosse*, Justice, upon a *Significavit* of his Excommunication from the Bishop of *Litchfield*. In this Case the *Mitre* exalted it self above the *Crown*, and the Bishop's Power opposed the King's, by recommitting a Man to Prison for the same Cause, from which the King had a little before discharged him. It happened some Time after, that the said *Peter Littleton* was taken sick in the Prison, and likely to die of a *Fever* (four Men having died out of the same Room in about two Weeks Time) and the Priest, his Prosecutor was applied to, in order to obtain a little Liberty of Air for the Preservation of the Man's Life, but he would by no Means consent thereto; nay, so cruel was he, that when the Goaler in Compassion gave him Leave to go out on Condition of returning in a short Time, the Priest hearing of it, sent Persons to threaten the Goaler with a Prosecution, and obliged him to keep the poor weak Man under close Confinement.

In the same Year *Edward Scotson*, of *Eccleshall*, for a Demand of 1*s.* made by *William Ford*, a Priest, for Tithes or *Easter-Offerings*, had Goods taken from him worth 20*s.* Also *John Till*, of *Whitegrove*, for 2*s.* 6*d.* demanded by *William Bayly*,

Bayly, Priest of the Parish called St. Mary's in Stafford, for Tithe-Rent, had taken from him Pewter and Bedding, to the Value of 2*l.* 5*s.*

Robert Miller, John Hall, and Joseph Taylor, were prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes, and excommunicated for not appearing there, though they were never cited, but a knavish Apparitor had made a false Return of his having served a Process upon them. For this they were excommunicated, and afterward committed to Prison.

Taken this Year in Corn and Hay for Tithes, from John Preston of Tervall, John Till of Whitegrove, and John Hall of Wall, to the Value of 20*l.* 7*s.*

ANNO 1677. On the 3d of November, Owen Roberts and his Wife, had been imprisoned in Shrewsbury Goal near twelve Months, for no other Cause than their having been married otherwise than according to the Manner prescribed in the Liturgy of the Church of England.

ANNO 1679. Thomas Taylor, being occasionally at the House of William Hearwood of Keele, three or four Friends and some Neighbours came in, and Thomas Taylor preached to them, and afterward prayed. One Ralph Bostock, Clerk to Justice Snead, informed his Master thereof, who sent for two of the Neighbours that were present, and obliged them to make Oath of the same; upon which he fined Thomas Taylor for preaching 20*l.* Beside which, he granted Warrants for Distress, and caused to be taken from William Hearwood, Humphry Morgan, and John Smith, an Horse, an Heifer, and other Things, worth 7*l.* 10*s.*

ANNO 1681. Taken from Thomas Hamersly, of Bradford, Corn worth 2*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
ANNO 1682. Taken for Tithes,			
From William Hearwood, Corn worth	1	2	4
William Silvester, Hay, Corn, and Wool, worth	1	16	0
John Hall, of Wall, Hay and Corn worth	3	15	0
John Preston, of Tixtall, Hay and Corn worth	12	0	0
John Alsop, of Inglesfry, Hay and Corn worth	16	0	0
Thomas Hamersly, of Basford, Corn worth	1	15	0
William Hearwood aforesaid, Corn and Cheefe worth	2	2	0
John Wilcocks, Hay and Corn worth	0	15	0

39 5 4

In this Year also were taken for Absence from the National Worship, from Humphry Morgan, William Hearwood, and Richard Simpson, Corn, Sheep, Cheefe, &c. worth 2*l.* 16*s.*

We shall next lay before the Reader a Narrative, taken from a Letter dated at Stafford, in the Twelfth Month 1682, viz.

“ AN honest Woman of Keel, who feared the Lord, being dead, her
 “ Husband and Relations intended to bury her in a Burying-place of
 “ Friends, about ten Miles from thence; but the Priest of the Parish, named
 “ Thomas Walball, sent to the Woman's Husband a threatening Message, that
 “ if he did not forthwith pay him his Demand for Fees, he would arrest the
 “ Corps, and cause them to bury her in a Ditch: He also said in my Hearing,
 “ that He had rather see all the Hereticks hang'd, than lose one Sixpence by
 “ them. In short, the Priest, with two Church-Officers, sat in an House
 “ watching and drinking the greatest Part, if not the whole of the Night, in
 “ order to intercept the Corps when it should be carried to the Burial: So
 “ that the poor Man, to keep his dear Wife out of their Hands, determined
 “ to bury her in his own Garden, and he accordingly did so: And he himself,
 “ oppressed with Grief, died about six Days after, and was buried by his
 “ Wife. Several of the Neighbourhood, by whom in general he was well-
 “ beloved, came to his Funeral, and among others came also the Church-
 “ wardens, with no good Intent, as appeared by the Sequel. The Corps
 “ being

STAFFORD-SHIRE.
1675.

False Return in the Ecclesiastical Court.

Tithes of Corn, &c.

Imprisonments for marrying.

T. Taylor fined.

Distresses.

For Absence from the National Worship.

A Narrative of a violent Proceeding of a Priest on Occasion of a Burial.

STAFFORD-
SHIRE.
1682.

"being interr'd, a Person present kneeled down and prayed to God, to sanctify
"the present Occasion to them, and that the present Spectacle of Mortality might
"affect their Hearts with a proper Regard of the Uncertainty of their own
"Lives, &c. Upon this the Churchwardens grounded an Information, and
"swore before Justice Snead, that there was a Conventicle or unlawful As-
"sembly, and that Humphry Woolrich preached and prayed thereat; whereupon
"the said Humphry was fined 20*l*. William Holland 5*l*. 5*s*. William Mor-
"gan 40*s*. John Peake and his Wife, Jane Heath, Elizabeth Halfpenny, Charles
"Mercer, Richard Simpfen and his Wife, John Youde and his Wife, and William
"Heawood, 5*s*. a-piece. The Justice, usually of a moderate Disposition,
"seemed to act in this Case contrary to his Inclination, being urged to it by
"the Priest and others: The Friends objecting to what was done, he advised
"them to pay the Fines, telling them, that If any of them would appeal, if upon
"hearing they gained the Cause at Sessions, he would pay back the Fines to all the
"rest of them. Whereupon an Appeal was entred by William Morgan, and
"upon hearing Council in the Case, the Court determined in his Favour: A
"Copy of the Record was as follows, viz.

"UPON hearing of Council in the Appeal brought by William Morgan,
"of Keel in the County of Stafford, to the Record of Conviction
"certified by William Snead, Esq. one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace
"for this County, concerning a Conventicle in Keel, it appeared to the Court,
"that the Evidence certified in the Record of Conviction, was not under Hand
"and Seal, according as the Law in that Case requires. It was ordered that
"the said William Morgan should have his 40*s*. upon the said Conventicle
"Act returned him again.

"ZACHARY BABINGTON.

"This so irritated the Priest, that he did his utmost to excite the Magistrates
"of the Place, where Humphry Woolrich dwelt, to tender him the Oath of
"Allegiance, but being unable to prevail with them, to answer his Purpose,
"he applied to some Country Justices, who sent for the said Humphry,
"tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, and upon his refusing to take it sent
"him to Prison."

Distresses.

Peter Littleton, for himself and Wife being at a Meeting in Stafford, had
his Goods taken away worth 1*l*. And George Amery, for 5*s*. Fine, Goods
worth 15*s*.

Prisoners on Writs de Ex- com. Cap.

ANNO 1683. William Davenport and William Fallowfield, were Prisoners
on a Writ de Excommunicato capienda in the Month called August this Year,
having then been confined upwards of two Years and three Months, after a
Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical Court for Absence from the Parish-Church of
Leek, and for not receiving the Sacrament.

Taken by Distress for Meetings,

		<i>l</i> .	<i>s</i> .	<i>d</i> .
Distresses for	From Hugh Ford, of Norton, for 16 <i>s</i> . Fine, Goods worth	1	6	8
Meetings.	William Heawood, Goods worth	3	5	0
	Richard Simson and John Hall, three Cows worth	10	12	0
		15	3	8

Proceedings at Stafford Assizes.

Speech of the Judge.

At the Assizes held in Stafford, on the 14th of the Month called March
this Year, Judge Levins, in his Charge to the Grand Jury, press'd the Execu-
tion of the Laws against Conventicles, arguing, that where Disagreement was
admitted in the Church, there could be no Agreement in the State: And as to the
Quakers in particular, he advised the Prosecution of them by Distress of their
Goods, saying, It was better to have their Stuff, than to stuff the Goals with
them.

them. The Grand Jury, also, to shew their Concurrence with the Judge's Sentiments, made a Presentment as follows, viz.

STAFF-
ORD-
SHIRE.
1683.

" The Presentment of the GRAND JURY at the Assizes held at Stafford,
" for the County of Stafford, the 14th of March 1683.

" 1st. WE present all Meetings of Dissenters, Papists, and other Sectaries,
" upon Pretence of Religion, contrary to the Act of Uniformity,
" seditious and factious, and tending to the Subversion of the Government,
" the Hazard of his Majesty's most sacred Person, and the Ruin and De-
" struction of all his loyal Subjects.

Presentment
of the Grand
Jury.

" 2^{dly}. We present it as our humble Opinion, that it is necessary that the
" Magistrates do speedily and effectually put the Laws in Execution against all
" Dissenters and Papists, and such as shall be remiss or negligent in their Pro-
" secution are guilty of a Breach of that Trust his Majesty has reposed in them.

" 3^{dly}. We present it as our humble Opinion, that due Enquiry be made
" into Corporations, whether secluded Ministers do not inhabit in them,
" or within the Compass prohibited by Act of Parliament? And if it be
" found they do, that they be prosecuted according to Law."

The Prosecutions, consequent of such Presentments, fell chiefly on this
People, because their Intrepidity in holding their publick Assemblies for Wor-
ship was such, as continually exposed them to the Severity of the Laws; while
Papists and some other Dissenters assembled with more Privacy and Caution,
and by that Means frequently evaded the threatned Danger.

In this Year Robert Miller and John Hall were prosecuted on the Statute
for 20^l. per Month, for Absence from the National Worship.

Prosecutions
for 20^l. per
Month.

ANNO 1684. On the 31st of the Month called May, the following
Petition of William Corbett was presented, by himself, John Vaughton and John
Edge, to King Charles the Second in Windsor Park, viz.

" To King CHARLES the Second over England, &c.

" The Distressed Condition of WILLIAM CORBETT, of Sedgley in Staffordshire,
" humbly presented.

" O King!

" I Am the more emboldened and encouraged to present my Case to thee,
" because of the often Hazard of my Life in the Service of thy Father
" King Charles the First, in the late Wars in England, in the General Lord
" Capel's own Troop, wherein I sustained these Wounds, namely, I was shot
" in my Leg at the Seige of Weam in Shropshire, and wounded in my left
" Arm at the Garrison of the Lord Cholmley's House in Cheshire, and also cut
" and dangerously wounded in my Head, to the Caul of my Brain, with a
" Pole-ax at a Skirmish at Stourbridge in Worcestershire, and at the same Time
" the Thumb of my right Hand was cut off: And after several Years Con-
" tinuance in the King's Service, it pleased God to incline mine Heart to make
" Enquiry after his Way of Salvation, among the People called Quakers,
" whom I finding to be a peaceable People, fearing God, and of innocent
" Principles, and sincere Affections toward the King, I was the more per-
" suaded in my Conscience to join in religious Society with them, and to
" continue among them therein, and to frequent their peaceable Meetings,
" knowing that they are for the Service and Worship of Almighty God that
" made us, for which Cause alone I am a deep Sufferer, with many more
" innocent Persons in the same County, being severely prosecuted by Informers,
" on whose false Information upon Oath, I being convicted on the Statute
" 22 Car. 2. was fined and distrained for two Meetings at Dudley in the said
" County of Worcester; (the one on the 1st of the Month called April, and the
" other in the Month called June 1683) for which I was fined ten Pounds
" for

Petition of
W. Corbett
to K. Charles.

STAFF-
FORD-
SHIRE.
1684.

Presentment
of the Grand
Jury.

“for the House, and five Shillings for myself, though I was at neither of
“ those Meetings, and had four Cows taken away, and my Doors broke
“ open, and Goods taken, not leaving me so much as a Stool to sit on, nor a
“ Bed to lie on but one of Straw. Also the Officers (being eight of them)
“ seized on my Stock of Hay, which they divided into eight Parts, and cast
“ Lots for it, and every one took his Lot. Now I being but a poor Man,
“ and thus ruined, and also engaged to others, was forced to sell my House
“ to pay my Debts, so being incapable to enter an Appeal, was also necessi-
“ tated to give over my Farm, and return it to my Landlord, being wholly
“ disabled to hold it any longer. Notwithstanding which, I am since fined for
“ Meetings and Meeting-houses, nine Pounds six Shillings. Many likewise
“ of my Neighbours and Friends, on the same Account, have been fined, and
“ Distresses made, and their Goods taken away to a considerable Value,
“ tending to bring many Families of the King's peaceable Subjects in the said
“ County to Penury and Want.
“ Wherefore may it please thee, O King, having been formerly such a
“ Sufferer in my Person, in the Service of the King thy Father, and now
“ being impoverished in my Estate and Livelihood, for my tender Conscience
“ toward Almighty God: These Things considered, I humbly request, that
“ thou, O King, wilt please to take my distressed Case into thy Consideration,
“ so as to cause Restitution to be made me, or afford me such Relief, as in thy
“ Princely Wisdom and Clemency thou shalt see meet.
“ And also I intreat thee to put a Stop to these devouring Informers, that
“ swear falsely, as before, for their own Interest, that thy peaceable Subjects may
“ not be utterly ruined by them.

“ And I and my suffering Friends do desire and pray for thy temporal
“ and eternal Welfare.

“ WM. CORBETT.”

This Petition being delivered to the King, he read Part of it, and then delivered it to another Person to read the rest to him: And the Petitioner was directed by some about the King, to get a Certificate from some Persons of Note in the County of Stafford, whom he had named to them. But it doth not appear that he obtained any Relief.

Distresses for
Meetings.

In this Year *Peter Littleton*, for himself and his Wife being at several Meetings held in the Street, when they were lockt out of their Meeting-house, had Corn and Household Goods taken away worth 10*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* by Warrant from *William Finey*, Mayor of Stafford.

Also *George Amery*, for the same Cause, by the same Mayor's Warrant, had a Mare and other Goods taken from him worth 10*l.* And *John Puddy*, *Mary Skarratt*, and *Mary Cumberford*, had also Goods taken from them, for attending religious Meetings, to the Value of 5*l.* 10*s.*

About this Time a brief Representation of the State of this People, in this County, was presented, viz.

“ To the KNIGHTS and BURGESSES, Members of PARLIAMENT for
“ the County of Stafford.

“ We your Neighbours and Countrymen do send this short Application.

To the Knights
and Burgesses
in Parliament.

“ YOUR Places rendring you capable to move for our Relief from
“ those several Laws by which we have suffered, and may much more,
“ if a Stop be not put thereto, as by 20*l.* a Month, by 12*d.* a Sunday, by
“ Imprisonments, and by the Acts made against Conventicles, several at Staf-
“ ford have not only suffered great Hardships all the last cold Winter Season,
“ but also have been fined, not being present to answer for themselves, and
“ their Goods taken by Loads from them; and not having Necessaries left
“ them,

“ them, hath been a Means of impairing some of their Healths. But we may
 “ hope, that you in your Wisdom and Charity will please to consider our
 “ Suffering Case as above related, and to afford us your *Christian* Endeavours
 “ for our Relief, you knowing us to be a peaceable People, and shall so
 “ continue through God’s Assistance, desiring God may incline your Hearts
 “ to ease the Oppressed, and answer this our *Christian* Request, hoping we
 “ shall never do any Thing whereby we may justly forfeit our Liberties or
 “ Properties, either as *Englishmen* or as *Christians*.

STAFF-
 FORD-
 SHIRE.
 1684.

“ Signed on Behalf of the rest concerned,

“ By WILLIAM FALLOWFIELD, WILLIAM CORBETT,
 “ WILLIAM HEAWOOD, HENRY FIDOE,
 “ PETER LITTLETON, RICHARD SIMSON,
 “ WILLIAM CLARK, WILLIAM HALL.”
 “ JOHN FIDOE,

ANNO 1689. On the 6th of November, *Elibu Hall*, of *Longnor*, was committed to Prison by Warrant from two Justices of the Peace, grounded on a Certificate of Contempt, out of the Ecclesiastical Court, at the Suit of *Edward Bishop*, Vicar of *Alstonfield*, for Non-payment of small Tithes.

Imprisonment
 for Tithes.

ANNO 1690. In this and the last Year was taken for Tithes, in Wool, Hay, and Corn,

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>John Hall</i> of <i>Wall</i> , and <i>Hugh Ford</i> of <i>Ford-green</i>	4	3	0
<i>William Silvester</i> of <i>Fradley</i> , and <i>Samuel Hall</i> of <i>Wall</i>	8	10	6
<i>John Alsop</i> of <i>Inglestry</i> , and <i>John Preston</i> of <i>Tixall</i>	7	10	0
<i>Thomas Hamersly</i> of <i>Basford</i> , and <i>Richard Simson</i> of <i>Keel</i>	7	7	0
	27	10	6

Distresses for
 Tithes.

C H A P. XXXII.

S U F F O L K.

SUFFOLK.
 1655.

ANNO 1655.

THE first Instance of Persecution in this County was that of *John Porter*, a Man licensed to sell Wares up and down the Country. He being, on a First-day of the Week, at the House of *Richard White* in *Wickhamstyth*, as he sat reading in a Book published by one of his Friends, *Edward Harvey*, a Justice of the Peace, came in with a Constable, and snatched the Book out of his Hand, saying, *You Rogue, what will you not pull off your Hat to the Protector? You are a seducing Fellow, and read seducing Books: You shall be bound to appear at the Sessions, or go to Prison.* Accordingly he gave Bond, and did appear at the Sessions, where the Majority of the Justices, at the Persuasion of the said Justice *Harvey*, seemed determined against him: *Harvey*, an embitter’d Man, on this Occasion turned Informer, and took his Oath, that *the said John Porter did carry a Pack at his Back, and sold Quakers Books.* *Porter* produced his License for travelling in the Way of his Trade, signed by five or six Justices and Officers, but the Court would take no Notice of it: They sentenced him to be whipt; which Sentence was

Cruel Usage
 and barbarous
 whipping of
 J. Porter.

Justice turns
 Informer.

SUFFOLK.
1655.

most barbarously executed on the Market-day at *Mendlesham*, where the poor Man, tied by his Hands, was hung up on a Butcher's Spirket, till the cruel Executioner gave him above twenty Stripes with a three-corded Whip, so that the Flesh and Skin hung in Flakes torn in pieces on his Back, a miserable Sight, exciting Compassion even in the Hard-hearted among the Spectators.

On the 30th of the Month called *July* 1655, *George Whitehead*, *John Harwood*, and *Richard Clayton*, passing through *Buers*, a Town in *Suffolk*, the said *Richard Clayton* did fix a Paper on the Door of the Steeple-house there, being as follows, viz.

Copy of a
Paper fixed
on the Steeple-
house Door at
Buers.

“ IF you do set up such Ministers as seek for their Gain from their Quarter,
“ you set up such as the Prophet *Isaiah* disapproves of, *Isai. lvi. 11.* And
“ you that do set up such as bear Rule by their Means, you set up such as the
“ Prophet *Jeremiah* and the Lord disapprove, *Jere. iv.* And you that set
“ up such that seek for the Wool, and make a Prey upon the People, you
“ set up such as the Prophet *Ezekiel* disapproves of, *Ezek. xxxiv.* And you
“ that set up Hirelings, you set up such as *Micah* disapproves of, *Micah iii.*
“ And you that set up such as are called of Men *Master*, stand praying in the
“ Synagogues, have the chiefest Places in the Assemblies, you set up such
“ as *Christ* disapproves, *2 Pet. ii. 14.* And if you set up such as persecute,
“ and cause People to be sent to Prison for speaking the Truth in the Syna-
“ gogues, you set up such as go in *Gain's* Way to Envy, *Jude Ver. 11.* And
“ you that set up such as receive Gifts and Rewards, the Wages of Unright-
“ teousness, you set up such as mind earthly Things, whose God is their
“ Belly, which the Apostle disapproves, *Phil. iii. 9.* And you that set up
“ such Teachers, strive to keep God's Labourers out of his Vineyard, which
“ *Christ* and his Apostles disapprove. And you that set up such as will not
“ suffer another to speak that stands by, when any Thing is revealed, but send
“ him to Prison if he do, you set up a persecuting Spirit full of Disorder,
“ and are judged by the Apostle's Life and Doctrine, who was a Minister of
“ *Jesus Christ*, both you that set up, and them you do set up, who said, *All*
“ *may prophesy one by one*, *1 Cor. xiv. 3.* And so you all by this Spirit are
“ judged to be in the Spirit of Error, and to be such as would quench the
“ Holy Spirit of God, and despise Prophecy, and dare not try all Things,
“ manifesting your selves to be Haters of the Light, and disapproved of the
“ Prophets and Apostles, and their Practice and Life. And you that set up
“ such as give *David's* Quakings, Tremblings, Cryings, Roarings, Prophecy-
“ ings, and Praises and Prayers in the Metre mixt together, you set up such
“ as have not the Spirit of Understanding, which Spirit brings to know the
“ Time of praying, and praising, and groaning, and crying, and trembling,
“ and quaking, and prophesying: He that hath the Understanding witnesseth
“ these Things in their Places; but you that give Scorners, and Drunkards,
“ and Swearers, and Persecutors, *David's* Conditions, for he was scoffed at when
“ he was in such Conditions, and these do so now at those that are in such
“ Conditions. And if you set up such as take Tithes, you set up such as the
“ Apostle denies, for the Apostle saith, *That the Priesthood was changed, and*
“ *the Law changed also*, *Heb. vii.* And if you set up such as before men-
“ tioned, you set up such as are contrary to the Scriptures, and plant no
“ Vineyard for God, nor labour in his Vineyard, for first they must plant a
“ Vineyard, before they eat of its Fruit, *1 Cor. ix. 7.*”

This Paper being stuck up, some People came together to read it, to whom *George Whitehead* and *John Harwood* gave a *Christian Exhortation to live in the Fear of the Lord, and to turn from the Evil of their Ways, &c.* While they were speaking, a Constable came, and carried them before *Herbert Pelham*, an *Essex* Justice, then at *Buers*, who examined them, though officiously, being out of his Precinct, and then sent them, together with *Clayton*, to *Thomas Waldegrave*, a Justice at *Smallbridge*, not far from thence, who having asked them

them a few Questions, left them in the Constable's Custody, till *Pelham* and he had laid their Heads together. The Issue of their Consultation was, that *Richard Clayton* was, by *Waldegrave's* Order, publicly whipt as a Vagrant, and sent out of the Town the same Day with a Pass: A Proceeding not justifiable by Law, *Clayton* being a Man of Reputation, and known to have an Estate of 20*l.* per Annum at *Gleaston* in *Lancashire*. *John Harwood* was the next Day sent to *Edmundsbury* Goal, and *George Whitehead* the Day following; a Copy of whose *Mittimus*, with his own Remarks thereon, we here insert, viz.

SUFFOLK.
1655.

Whipping of
R. Clayton.

Imprisonment
of J. Har-
wood and
G. White-
head.

" To the Constable of Buers, and to the Keeper of the Goal at Bury.

" Suffolk *js.*

" I Send you herewithal the Body of *George Whitehead*, of *Orton* in the County of *Westmorland*, (a) an idle wandering Fellow, and (b) a common Disturber of the Peace of this Nation, requiring you, in the Name of his Highness the Lord Protector, &c. to receive him into your Goal, and him there safely to keep, that he may be forth-coming before the Justices at the next Sessions for the Peace, to be holden for this County at *Bury*, then and there to be proceeded with according to the Law: And hereof I require you not to fail. This 1st Day of August 1655.

Mittimus of
G. White-
head.

" THO. WALDEGRAVE."

George Whitehead's own Remarks on this *Mittimus* were as follows,

" Observ. (a) An idle wandering Fellow. This is false in Fact, as well as scurrilous and disdainful, for

" 1. I am well known to be no such Person, for after my Parents took me away from that noted School at *Blencoe* in *Cumberland*, at the Request of some Friends, I taught a private, then a publick School.

" 2. After that, I was at my Father's House Part of a Summer, and then was not idle, but industrious in what was proper for me, not being educated either in *Idleness*, nor willing to eat the *Bread of Idleness*, that I might prevent all Reflection and Reproach against me on that Account.

" 3. And when it pleased God to call me by his Word from my Father's House, and out of my native Country, to preach the Everlasting Gospel, therein I laboured faithfully, and travelled in the Service thereof, according to the Grace and Ability given me of God, in his dear Son Christ Jesus.

" (b) A common Disturber of the publick Peace of this Nation, is also unjustly charged against me, for I was, and am, of a peaceable Conversation, being also a Minister of the Gospel of Peace.

" How came I to be termed an idle wandering Fellow in the Warrant of Commitment, seeing that in the Indictment at Quarter Sessions, I was called Labourer? Thus Self-contradictory was this our Prosecutor. Where Envy is, there is Confusion. Could he reasonably think himself more dishonoured by my giving him his own Name of *Thomas Waldegrave*, than he was by his own injurious and illegal Proceedings against us?"

Remarks on
the said Mit-
timus.

A few Weeks after the Commitment of *George Whitehead* and *John Harwood*, *George Rose* was sent to the same Prison by Justice *Gurdon*, his *Mittimus* being as follows, viz.

Suffolk *js.*

" To the Keeper of the Common Goal at Bury St. Edmund's,
" and his Deputy or Deputies there.

" FORASMUCH as upon Examination of *George Rose*, late of *Halsted* in the County of *Essex*, Glazier, and upon Examination taken upon Oath before us against the said *Rose*, sufficient Cause appears to us,

Mittimus of
G. Rose.

" whereby

SUFFOLK
1655.

"whereby we enforce *Rose* to find two able and sufficient Sureties for his personal Appearance at the next Sessions of the Peace, to be holden for the Franchise of *Bury St. Edmund's*, and thence not to depart without License of the Court: And forasmuch as the said *George Rose* refuseth to find Sureties, we therefore herewithal send you the Body of the said *George Rose*, requiring you, in the Name of his Highness the Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of *England*, to receive him into the said Goal, and him there safely to keep until the next Sessions, if in the mean Time he the said *George* (being by his own Confession one now usually called a *Quaker*) shall not find such able and sufficient Sureties for his Appearance as afore said.

"Dated at *Affington* the 3d Day of September 1655.

"JOHN GURDON."

The Justice
avenges the
Priest's
Quarrel.

Thus was *George Rose* imprisoned by a *Mittimus* assigning no Breach of Law, nor any Matter of Fact, as a Cause for requiring Sureties, nor indeed had he given any just Occasion of Offence, except his asking a Question of the Priest of *Stoke*, after his Sermon there, at which the Priest was displeased, and the Justice, to avenge the Parson's Quarrel, took this extrajudicial Course to send the poor Man to Prison. The *Mittimus* indeed says, that he confessed himself one called a *Quaker*, but that Confession could be neither a legal, nor reasonable Cause for his Commitment.

Indictment of
Whitehead,
Harwood,
and Clayton,

Fined and
recommitted.

Imprisonment
of G. Fox
the Younger.

At the next Quarter Sessions, held at *Edmundsbury* the 9th of October, *Whitehead*, *Harwood*, and *Clayton*, were indicted as *Common Disturbers of the * Magistrates and Ministers*. The Justices who committed them were their sole Accusers, and incensed the others against them; and an ignorant Jury being impanelled, by Direction of the Court, presently found them Guilty of the Indictment: Whereupon they were fined twenty Nobles each, and recommitted to Prison till Payment. *George Fox*, of *Chasefield*, commonly called *George Fox the Younger*, to distinguish him from the other of that Name, was present at their Trial, and observing the hard Treatment of the Prisoners, and especially the Prejudice expressed by Justice *Gurdon* against them, and being troubled thereat, spake thus to the said Justice as he was coming out of the Sessions-house, viz. *Repent of thy unjust Actions this Day, for otherwise thou canst not escape the just Judgments of God*. Upon this *Gurdon* laid hold on him, and had him before the Bench, who demanded Sureties till the next Sessions, which he not complying with, they sent him to Prison with the others.

Imprisonment
J. Laurence.

On the 14th of the Month called *August*, *Joseph Laurence* was committed to the County Goal at *Ipswich*, being charged with *Railing against the Ministers of God's Word, and calling the Worship of God, Babylonish*. A Charge founded only on some casual Words of his, who, when two Persons came to him and demanded Tithe for the Priest, had said, *That he should not pay Tithes for the upholding of Baal's Priest, or any Babylonish Worship*.

H. Marshall
imprisoned,
indicted, and
fined.

On the 22d of November, *Henry Marshall*, of *Cambridgeshire*, for speaking a few Words to the Priest of *Boxford*, after his Sermon and Prayer were ended, was, by Order of Justice *Gurdon*, first set in the Stocks about an Hour, and then sent to *Edmundsbury Goal*. At the next Quarter Sessions he was indicted as a *Peace-breaker*, and fined twenty Marks; for Non-payment of which he was sent back to Prison: Thus he suffered a three-fold Punishment for one pretended Offence, viz. the Stocks, Imprisonment, and Fine. At the same Sessions *George Fox* was called, but no Indictment was laid against him, nor did any Accuser appear; yet the Court sent him back to Prison till another Sessions, at which he was not called: Whereupon he asked his Liberty of the Goaler, but he would not grant it, neither would he shew him any Order or Warrant for his longer Detention.

The

* Though neither of them had spoken a Word to any Magistrate, or Minister, before they were taken into Custody.

The Usage of these five Prisoners at *Edmundsbury* was very hard ; for they were lodged in the common Ward among Felons, in a low Dungeon-like Place under the Market-house, with a damp Earthen Floor, where they lay upon Rye-straw. The Goaler was also very angry with them, because they contributed not to his Avarice, nor would buy any of his Strong-liquors, as some of the other Prisoners did ; but these Persons were temperate, and drank only Water, by which he could gain nothing. Besides, they frequently testified against the Drunkenness, Swearing, and other Disorders in his House, and reproved him for his Hypocrisy, who, while he suffered such Things, made great and high Pretences to Religion, he being a Member of a *Presbyterian* Church, and would on the Day called *Sunday*, call his Prisoners together, pretend to give them Instructions, and exercise a Kind of formal Devotion among them. When *G. Whitehead* told him of his Hypocrisy therein, his Fruits being so contrary, his Daughter said, *What ! do you call my Father an Hypocrite, who has been a Saint these forty Years ?* For these Causes he was exceedingly embitter'd against them, so that he did often strike them on the Face, and grievously abuse them both by Words and Actions : And the Tapster, Turnkey, and other of his Servants, and some of the drunken Prisoners, encouraged by his Example, did frequently abuse them with Blows, and sometimes took away their Food and other Necessaries, saying, *The Goaler gave them Leave so to do : And one of the Prisoners said, If he killed them, he should not be hang'd for it.*

It would be too tedious to relate one Half of the Sufferings they underwent, which the Goaler and his Servants were so conscious of, that they used their Endeavours to prevent its being known, by taking away from the Prisoners their Pen and Ink, and often prohibiting their Friends from coming to visit them, pretending an Order from the Justices that none of them should be admitted. Under this miserable State of Captivity and tyrannical Usage they continued many Months : The Manner of their Deliverance thence will be related in our Account of the next Year.

In this Year also *William Seaman*, of *Mendlesham*, and *Elizabeth Lockwood*, were committed to *Ipswich* Goal, for speaking to a Priest, after he had ended his Sermon in the Place of publick Worship at *Mendlesham*. At an ensuing Sessions *Seaman* was fined twenty Marks, and sent again to Prison, where he was cruelly used by *John Story*, Goaler. In the same Year *Henry Baker*, of *Thrandlestone*, going on the First-day of the Week to a Meeting at *Mendlesham*, had his Horse taken from him, but redeemed next Day by his Mother's paying 10 s. And shortly after, in his Return from a Meeting at the same Place, his Horse, Bridle, and Saddle, were taken away, worth 5 l. *John Eweings* and *Jane Hawes*, for riding to a Meeting, were set in the Stocks six Hours, by the Direction of Justice *Harvey*, who, because the Constable in their Favour removed the Stocks to a warmer Place than they were used to stand in, for that Act of Humanity sent him to Prison.

ANNO 1656. It happened on the 10th of the Month called *June*, that *George Harrison* and *Stephen Hubbersty*, two Preachers, came to the House of *Anthony Appleby* at *Haverill* ; they had not been long there before a Multitude of People beset the House, cursing, swearing, threatening, and throwing Stones at the Door till about Midnight. Next Morning they renew'd their Rage, swearing they would have these Men, or pull the House down, not unlike the wicked *Sodomites* at the Door of *Lot* : At length with one Accord, they made an Onset and broke the Gate to pieces, and entring the House, haled out the harmless Strangers, and desperately beat and kickt them, driving them along the Street with halloeing and shouting, and stoned them beyond the Town's End. When *Anthony Appleby* complained to a Justice of the Peace of this Riot, and grievous Abuse of his Friends, the Justice would not hear him, because he had his Hat on, but ordered the Constables, that *If any of that Persuasion came to Town, they should bring them to him to be punished.* About this Time also, *John Greenwood* was sent to *Edmundsbury* Goal, and detained there several Weeks, for no Offence, except that of presenting a Book to

SUFFOLK.
1655.Abuses of the
Goealer and
Prisoners.Imprisonment
of several
others.Two set in the
Stocks.A Constable
sent to Prison.Assault on G.
Harrison and
S. Hubbersty
at Haverill.Unjust Impri-
sonment of J.
Greenwood.

SUFFOLK.
1656.

Two Women
imprisoned.

Prosecutions

Justice Gurdon, of *Affington*, intituled, *The Wife taken in his own Craftiness*. Some displeasing Truths that Book contained so irritated the Justice, that he by an Act of arbitrary Power imprisoned the Giver of it, who had broke no Law. As if the Office of a Magistrate were an Exemption from just Re- proof. Equally impatient of Contradiction were the Priests, who procured the Imprisonment of *Margaret Gray* and *Anne Blakeling*, who had presumed to call in question either the Truth of their Doctrine, or the Validity of their Call.

George Sherwin, being prosecuted in the *Exchequer* for Tithes, at the Suit of *Dame Vere Gaudy*, of *Debingham*, for refusing to Swear to his Answer exhibited in that Court, was committed to *Melton Goal* on the 2d of the Month called *January*; as was on the same Day *John Simpson*, of *Kenton*, for the same Cause, at the Prosecution of *Charles Gaudy*, for Tithes. About the same Time *William Warn*, of *Wellingworth*, was also imprisoned in the same Goal for a Demand of but 9 s. for Tithe. Also *Joseph Laurence*, for 2 l. 14 s. demanded for Tithes, had Goods taken from him to the Value of 10 l. Like- wise *Richard White*, of *Wickhamskith*, was prosecuted in the County Court, at the Suit of *Austin Gibbett* Priest, for a pretended Debt of 16 l. 15 s. borrowed, and 3 l. 5 s. for Tithes. The Debt, a meer Pretence, was dropt, at the Trial, but the Tithe was granted by the Jury, and he had three Cows taken for it worth 12 l.

Distress for
Meeting.

Application to
Cromwell.

Anthony Kettle, of *Edwardstone*, for going to a Meeting on the First-day of the Week, had his Goods taken by Distress, to the Value of 12 s.

In this Year the Prisoners at *Edmundsbury* and *Ipswich* found Means of re- presenting their barbarous Usage to some of their Friends at *London*, who applied to *Oliver Cromwell*, and his Deputy *Fleetwood*, on their Behalf, who issued Orders to the Justices to enquire into their Case; upon which Enquiry the cruel and illegal Treatment of the Prisoners from the Goaler, his Servants, and others, was so fully made appear, that they reproved him for it, and charged him to suffer no such Abuses for the future. This awed them into a Degree of better Behaviour, and the Condition of the Prisoners became more tolerable. An Application was also made to Judge *Atkins*, at *Bury Assizes*, on the Behalf of *George Whitehead*, in an unusual Manner, as appears by the following Letter, viz.

“ Judge ATKINS!

A Letter to
Judge Atkins.

“ W H E R E A S I have offered myself unto thee for my Friend *George Whitehead*, to lie in Bonds, or what else might be inflicted on him, “ so he may go forth free, or to lay down my Life for him, I was and am “ willing; but I have not yet received any plain Answer, whether thou wilt “ grant my Desire, yea or nay; so that since I have spoken of it twice to “ thee, I have been at the House where thou lodgest, to know thy Mind in “ the Thing, and I could not get so much Liberty as to speak to thee: “ Therefore this is to desire thee to send me a few Words, whether my Body “ will be taken a Pledge for his, or else to give Order that I may come to “ thee. So I desire thee, in the Name of the Lord, not to slight this, but “ consider and resolve of it in the Sight of God, for the Thing is to be “ valued; and herein I do own the Scriptures, and witness them, and the “ fulfilling of them in me by *Christ Jesus*, who suffered and laid down his “ Life for his Flock, and Greater Love hath no Man than this, to lay down his “ Life for his Friend, which I witness, wherein I am subject to the Commands “ of Christ, and see them fulfilled in me.

Bury, the 20th of the
Sixth Month 1656.

“ MARGARET SUTTON.”

Christian
Love demon-
strated.

This Letter, though it shews the poor Woman's Ignorance in point of Law, and the Extent of the Judge's Power, yet it aptly sets forth the Perfection of Christian Charity, and the exceeding Love and Bowels of Compassion in Christ

Christ Jesus, which faithful Sufferers for his Sake have one towards another; for the same Woman had been also for some Time imprisoned at *Bury*, by the Procurement of a Priest there, whom she had been concerned to reprove. The Fervency of her Concern for *G. Whitehead* had induced her to travel from her Habitation in *Westmorland*, the Place of his Birth, to solicit for his Liberty. Whether the Judge, at his Return to Court, made any Report of this Affair, does not appear; however, at length, after frequent Application to *Oliver Cromwell* and his Council, wherein *Mary Saunders*, a waiting Gentlewoman in the Protector's Family, was very serviceable, the following Order was issued, viz.

SUFFOLK.
1656.

“ Thursday, the 16th of October, at the Council at Whitehall.

“ ORDERED by his Highness the Lord Protector and his Council, Order of
“ that the Quakers imprisoned in *Colchester* in the County of *Essex*, and Council.
“ *Edmundsbury* and *Ipwich* in the County of *Suffolk*, be forthwith released and
“ set at Liberty. And it is referred to Sir *Francis Russel*, to take Care that
“ the same be done accordingly; as also to consider how the Fines set upon
“ them, or any of them, may with most Conveniency be taken off and dis-
“ charged: And likewise to take Order, that upon their being set at Liberty
“ as aforesaid, they be forthwith sent to their respective Homes.

“ W. JESSOP,

“ Clerk of the Council.”

This Order was carefully executed by Sir *Francis Russel*, a conscientious and compassionate Man, and averse to Persecution, who sent his Clerk to the Prison at *Bury*, to see them set at Liberty, which was done accordingly; though he did not order them to be sent Home, but, in Kindness, gave them an Order or Warrant, to produce in their Defence, if Need should be, that so they might travel without Molestation.

Sir Francis
Russel's chari-
table Disposi-
tion.

In the Time of their Imprisonment, *George Fox the Younger* and *George Rose*, received a Gift and Part of the Ministry of the Gospel, and became serviceable Preachers; and the latter of them travelled afterward through diverse Parts of *Europe* and *America*.

Ministerial
Gift of G.
Fox and G.
Rose.

ANNO 1657. On the 1st of the Month called *April*, was a Meeting in the Yard or Orchard of *Joseph Deinsley*, of *Nayland*, where *George Whitehead* preaching, was apprehended by a pretended Gentleman, who rushed in with Soldiers and others, and pulled him down with Violence, and had him away to Justice *Gurdon*, who gave him much threatening Language, and when *George* desired him to hear with Moderation, he answered, *You are a moderate Rogue*: And when *George* calmly reprov'd him for his hard Speeches, he deridingly bad him, *Go Quake*. *George* asking him again, *Whether he despised Quaking?* he answered, *Yes, I do despise Quaking*. After some Examination, which the Clerk took in Writing, and which the Justice required *George* to sign, but he refused, as being partially taken; the Justice told him, *He should be whipt, and if he came again into that Country, should be branded on the Shoulder; and if he came a third Time should be hanged*. To which *George* mildly replied, *I am no such Person as thou hast mentioned: Thou art an old Man, and going to thy Grave, thou dost not know how soon the Lord may put an End to thy Days, and disappoint thee of thy evil Designs against me: However, I fear not thy Threats, if the Lord, whom I serve, require my Return into these Parts, I must obey him*. The Justice said, *I know I am an old Man*. *George* added, *Thou art old in Iniquity, it is high Time for thee to repent*.

G. White-
head taken
preaching at
Nayland.

Violence of
Justice Gur-
don reprov'd
by G. White-
head.

The Justice then issued the following Warrant, viz.

“ To

SUFFOLK. "To the Constables, and all other Officers whom it may concern, and
1657. "to every of them.

Warrant for
whipping G.
Whitehead.

"BE it remembred, that one *George Whitehead*, a young Man, about twenty
"Years of Age, who confesseth himself to have been born at *Orton* in
"Westmorland, being this present Day found vagrant and wandering at *Nayland*
"in this County, contrary to the Laws of this Nation, and being thereupon
"brought before us, two Justices of the Peace for this County, is by us
"ordered to be openly whipp'd at *Nayland* aforesaid, till his Body be bloody, as
"the Law in such Case enjoineth. And he is to pass thence from Parish to
"Parish by the Officers thereof, the next Way to *Orton* aforesaid, before the
"first Day of *June* now next ensuing.

"Dated at *Affington* in this County of *Suffolk*, the first Day of *April* 1657."

Signed by *JOHN GURDON*, and another Justice.

Cruelly exe-
cuted.

This Warrant was the next Day executed by a foolish Fellow, whom the Constable had hired, who with a long sharp Whip laid on unmercifully, having neither Fear nor Wit to restrain him, till the People cried out to stop him, so that *George's* Back and Breast were cut and wounded with many long bloody Stripes, the Marks whereof were seen a great While after. He was enabled to bear this rigorous Punishment with a Patience and Courage becoming his Christian Cause, and his Spirit was so raised in the Instant of his Sufferings, that he sang Praises aloud to the Lord, who had counted him worthy to suffer for his Name's Sake. After this cruel Execution, he was conducted the same Day on his own Horse, by the Constable and others, to *Sudbury*, and from thence to *Clare* and *Haverill*, the Officers, to whom the Warrant was directed, admiring to see a young Man so well habited, and on so good an Horse, pass'd as a Vagrant. On the Edge of *Cambridgeshire*, his innocent Appearance so wrought on the Constable, that he gave him up the Warrant, and bade him go his Way. So he returned to *Halsted*, *Coggeshall*, *Colchester*, *Sudbury*, and other Places in those Parts, where the Report of his Suffering raised in the People a great Curiosity and Desire to hear him, the Meetings were much frequented, and the Testimony of Truth greatly spread and prevailed.

Prosecution of
G. Rose, and
36 others, at
Hadleigh.

In the Month of *November*, on a First-day of the Week, was a Meeting at *Hadleigh*, to which the Mayor came, and asked, *Who was their Chief?* It was answered, *The Lord is Chief among us.* Whereupon he ordered his Assistants to pull down *George Rose*, who was preaching, and to take him away with thirty six others, who were put into a Dungeon some Hours; after which, he demanded 10s. of each of them, which they refusing to pay, eighteen of them were kept all Night in Prison, and on the Morrow, being Market-day, they were all set in the Stocks. *Roger Hawkins* also suffered the like Punishment six Hours, for going to a Meeting but half a Mile from his own House: Also *Anthony Kettle*, of *Edwardstone*, for the same Cause, was punished in the same Manner.

Sufferings for
refusing to
Swear

William Seaman, of *Bromswell*, for refusing to Swear at a Court-Leet, was fined 20s. and had his Mare worth 6l. taken away for that Fine. Some Time before this, *John Wateridge*, being chosen Constable, and refusing to take the usual Oath of Admission into that Office, was sent to Prison; and upon his Discharge thence, the Goaler kept back a Cloak of his worth 40s. for 4s. 4d. demanded for Fees.

and for not
attending the
publick Wor-
ship.

Richard Cooke and *Thomas Wood* were committed to Prison, from the Sessions at *Edmundsbury*, on a Presentment for not resorting to their Parish-Church at *Ashfield*: And for the like Cause, *Richard Candler* of *Nayland*, and *Henry Clark* of *Affington*, were fined 2s. 6d. each.

Imprisonment
of W. Alex-
ander.

In this Year *William Alexander*, of *Needham*, for speaking to the Priest of that Town, after his Sermon, was imprisoned at *Ipswich* till Sessions, then fined 5l. and recommitted for refusing to pay it.

John

John Dunks, of *Colchester*, for speaking to the People in *Nayland Steeple-house*, after the Priest had done, was taken up as a Vagrant, though but a few Miles from his own Habitation, publickly whipt, and sent away with a Pass.

The Prejudice and Spleen which *Robert Gurdon* and *John Fordingell*, Justices, entertained against this People, is apparent by the following Warrant, viz.

SUFFOLK
1657.

Warrant of
Justices pre-
judiced against
the Quakers

“FORASMUCH as it appears unto us upon Oath duly taken before us, that the Parties whose Names are under-written, being of the Age of sixteen Years at the least, are suspected or reputed to be Papists or popishly affected, these are therefore, by Virtue of a late Act of Parliament for discovering, convicting, and repressing of Popish Recusants, to will and require you forthwith to summon all and every such Person or Persons aforesaid, either by Delivery unto every one of them a Note in Writing, or leaving the same at their Dwellings or usual Places of Abode, to appear personally at the next Quarter Sessions, which are to be holden for the Franchise of *Bury St. Edmunds*, to do and receive that which by the Court shall be enjoined them, and thence not to depart without License of the Court. Dated at *Sudbury* this 12th Day of *December* 1657.

“ROBERT GURDON,

“JOHN FORDINGELL.

“NAMES,

“*Anthony Kettle* Yeoman, and *Sarah* his Wife : *Ambrose Kettle* the Younger, and *Sarah* his Sister : *Ambrose Hale*, and *Anne Edwards* Widow.”

They appeared accordingly, but those Justices, who shewed such a Willingness to proceed against them, failed of their Purpose, and no farther Process appears upon Record.

Rebecca Lucas, Widow, about eighty Years of Age, and her Daughters *Rebecca* and *Mary*, were summoned to appear before the Mayor of *Hadleigh*, who charged the old Woman to suffer no more Meetings at her House, nor to lodge any Quakers, threatening to quarter Soldiers on her, if she did ; he also told her Daughters, that he had nothing against them, but their being Quakers. A few Days after, the two Daughters were taken from their aged Mother, and sent to *Bridewell*, under Pretence that they ought to put themselves to Service ; but in Truth, as the Constable plainly told them, because they were not of the Mayor's Religion.

Two young
Women sent
to Bridewell.

About this Time *John Sewel*, having offended one of the Priests, was put into the Stocks at *Haverill*, and as he was sitting there, his Brother *Ambrose Sewel* and one *John Hill* came to him and talked with him ; for which Act of Friendship they were committed to *Edmundsbury Goal*. An arbitrary Proceeding, without any Rule either of Law or Equity. The same *John Sewel* was afterwards sent to the House of Correction.

Arbitrary Acts
of Persecution.

It happened, near the same Time, that *William Gardener*, of *Petstrey*, casually falling into Discourse with one *Adkinson*, Priest of *Livington*, in the Presence of a Justice of the Peace, the Priest charged him with Denying the Scriptures to be the Word of God : *William* desired the Priest to Prove by the Scriptures that they call themselves so. The Priest quoted *Luke* viii. 11. The Seed is the Word of God, and insisted, that the Scriptures were that Seed. After which, repeating his Charge with some Aggravation, *William* answered, that He lied in so charging him, for that he did own the Scriptures. Whereupon the Priest struck *William* with his Bible, and bruised his Face, and in all Probability would have proceeded to farther Violence, had not the Justice, ashamed of his Actions, pulled him away, and restrained him.

Affault made
by a Priest on
W. Gardener.

ANNO 1658. On the 12th of the Month called *July*, *George Whitehead* riding through *Hoxon*, and meeting *Edward Willan*, Priest of that Place, exhorted him to fear God, and cease from Iniquity ; after which they had some Conference

SUFFOLK.
1658.

G. White-
head hurried
to Prison by
Night.

E. Cross
abused by a
drunken Priest.

Prosecutions
for Tithes, and
grievous Im-
prisonments.

Death of
J. Causton.

Imprisonment
of A. Kettle.

Conference about the Church, till the Priest, impatient of Contradiction, grew angry, and taking George's Horse by the Bridle, forcibly stop him, till others came, who carried him before *Anthony Banny*, a Justice of the Peace, to whom the Priest complained that George had called him *Persecutor*, though that was after he had assaulted him in the Street, and threatened to pull him off his Horse: However, the Justice, willing to gratify the Parson, sent George to *Ipswich Goal*, under Pretence of his having broke a late *Act of Parliament*, made against *Vagrants, idle, loose, dissolute Persons, Fiddlers, &c.* which the Justice said, was made only for *Quakers*. They hurried him away to *Ipswich* on Horseback by Night, being about twenty Miles. In the Prison there, he found the aforesaid *William Alexander*, and two others of his Friends, whose Company was a great Solace in that Confinement, which was in the Common Ward, and their Lodging upon Straw. At the next Quarter Sessions he was fined 20s. and continued in Prison about sixteen Weeks, till the Death of *Oliver Cromwell*, upon which he was discharged.

In September this Year, *Edmund Cross*, a Grocer of *Woodbridge*, was grievously abused and beaten in his own Shop, and had an Earthen-pan broken about his Head, and his Face much cut therewith, by a Priest, whom he had reprov'd for his Drunkenness and Debauchery, of which he had been notoriously guilty. The Priest added to his Blows many opprobrious Words, calling *Edmund, Rogue, Witch, Devil, Papist*, and whatever else his drunken Rage did suggest.

In this or the preceding Year, *John Fryer* and *James Norton*, both of *Felixton*, were imprisoned at the Suit of *Miles Gowry*, Improprator, for Tithes, and after thirteen Weeks Imprisonment, the former had taken from him for the same Tithes, two Cows and two Calves worth 9l. and while in Prison, for another Demand of 18s. for Tithe, suffered Distress of Goods, to the Value of 4l. The latter, for Tithes of 25s. Value, had Goods taken away worth 3l. 15s. Not long after these Distresses, other Seizures, yet more exorbitant, were made on the same Persons for Tithes, the said *John Fryer*, for a Demand of 1l. 5s. having Goods taken from him worth 14l. and the said *James Norton*, for a Claim of 3l. 10s. made for only one Year's Tithe of Land, rented but at 12l. 13s. per Annum, suffered the Loss of his Goods, to the Value of 16l. About this Time also, *Arthur Goddard* was arrested for Tithes, at the Suit of *Richard Rogers*, * Priest of *Clopton*, and after he had been six Months in Custody, his Prosecutor obtained a Warrant from two Justices to make Distress for the same Tithe, and took away about four Times its Value. Hard was the Case of *John Causton*, imprisoned in *Ipswich Goal*, in the coldest Time of the Winter, three Months in an open Room, under a cruel Keeper, where, through the extreme Hardship he endured, he contracted a Sickness of which he there died. *Arnold Nunn* was also sent to Prison, for Tithes, about the same Time with *Causton*, and detained there nine Months: And for the same Cause *William Tummet* was confined in the same Prison, by an Attachment out of the *Exchequer*: As was *Richard White*, of *Mendlesham*, for refusing to Swear to his Answer to a Bill exhibited against him, for Tithes, in that Court. There was likewise at the same Time *John Eastling*, a Prisoner there for Tithes.

Anthony Kettle, being cited before two Justices, on a Complaint of *Gregory Pretty* a Priest, for Subtraction of Tithe, the said Justices issued their Warrant for Distress; and because, in some Discourse there, *Anthony* contradicted the Priest, and bluntly, though truly, had told him, that He lied, the Justices demanded Sureties of him for his good Behaviour, and for refusing to give them, sent him to *Ipswich Goal*. The Justices express themselves with much Warmth, and particularly one of them saying, *He hoped to have a new Law, whereby they shoul curb the Quakers*; and the other telling the said *Anthony*, that *He should have Punishment by the Bushel*.

* This Priest came with the Officer, called *Arthur Jesuit*, and other reproachful Names, seized him with his own Hands by the Collar, and had probably done him much Harm, had he not been prevented by a seasonable Reproof from one of his own Hearers.

Thomas Bircham, of *Feverton*, was imprisoned at *Blyborough* for 12 s. claimed by *John Carry*, Priest there, for two Year's Tithes; and *Thomas Judge*, of *Ashfield*, was kept close Prisoner at *Edmundsbury*, for refusing to pay Tithes. *Thomas Bond* had taken from him, for Tithes, 3 l. 10 s. a Sum equal to the Yearly Rent of the Land from which it was demanded. *John Coleman* also was a Sufferer by Distress for Tithes. And the Widow *Possford*, of *Clopton*, was sued for Tithes in the County Court of *Ipswich*, and cast there on the Statute for treble Damages.

SUFFOLK.
1658.

Imprisonments,
Distresses, and
Prosecution,
for Tithes.

	l.	s.	d.	
ANNO 1659. In this Year were taken for Tithes,				
From <i>William Driver</i> , of <i>Tremle</i> , for 1 l. 14 s. demanded,	12	0	0	Distresses for Tithes.
Goods worth				
<i>Thomas Pinson</i> , of the same, for 14 l. 1 s. demanded,	57	0	0	
Goods worth				
<i>William Burroughs</i> , of <i>Great-Finborough</i> , for 30 l.	40	0	0	
8 s. 6 d. demanded, Goods worth				
<i>Arthur Goddard</i> , of <i>Clopton</i> , for 3 l. 10 s. demanded,	14	0	0	
Goods worth				
<i>Richard White</i> , of <i>Mendlesham</i> , for 4 l. demanded,	15	0	0	
Goods worth				
<i>Anne Shipman</i> , of <i>Creetingham</i> , for 11 l. 10 s. demanded,	6	0	0	
Goods worth				
For 55 l. 3 s. 6 d. Taken	144	0	0	

Lucie Oxe Widow, her Son-in-Law *Christopher Sharp*, and *Lucie* his Wife, were cast into *Melton Goal*, at the Suit of *Francis Davis*, Priest of *Clifford*; though the Son and Daughter had no Property in the Land, out of which the Tithe was claimed, being only Servants to their Mother. Hard Case.

On the 17th of the Month called *April* this Year, a remarkable Occurrence happened in the Place of publick Worship at *Felthstone*. One *Joseph Scott*, a Quaker, went in before the Priest had entred on his Office, and stood still; on Sight of him the Priest was smitten with sudden Fear and Faintness, and said to the People, *I had thought to have done something at this Time, but here is one come in with a Spirit of Contradiction, so that I find much Weakness upon me, and cannot*: Having spoken this, he took his Hat, and went out. As he was going, *Joseph Scott*, who till then had said nothing, spake thus, *When the Blind leads the Blind, needs must they fall*: At which the Priest seemed much disturbed, and told him, *His Mouth should be stoppt*. At the next Quarter Sessions the Priest got him presented, and committed to *Ipswich Goal*, where he lay a considerable Time. A remarkable Occurrence.

Thomas Pinson went into the Steeple-house at *Aldborough*, where he stood still and said nothing, but was forthwith pulled out by the Hair of his Head, kept Prisoner one Night, and then sent out of Town by the Magistrates, who ordered the Ferryman to carry him over the Water. T. Pinson.

Robert Davis, a Constable, having some Presentments to make at a Sessions in *Woodbridge*, because he could not for Conscience-sake Swear to the same, was committed to *Melton Goal*, and his Presentments were rejected. A Constable imprisoned.

Observable was the Christian Courage and Intrepidity of *George Fox the Younger*, who, when he was preaching in a Meeting at *Dunfall*, was violently opposed by one *John Tokely*, who in a furious Manner came toward him with a drawn Sword, but when he saw that *George* faced him without Fear, he retired, and fetcht a Gun charged, which he fired at him, and the Shot went over his Head, but *George* continued preaching undisturbed, which his Opposer observing, from the Force of a sudden Conviction, cried out, *Your Faith is strong*, and so went away. Christian Courage of G. Fox the Younger.

At another Time, the same *George Fox* preaching in the Market-place at *Aldborough*, was put out of Town by the Bayliff, but soon returned, and had a Meeting there at a Widow's House the same Evening, whence he was taken and His Sufferings.

SUFFOLK.
1659.

and sent to Prison, where he was not long detained, for, four Days after we find him again preaching to the People in the Steeple-house at *Sowold*, after the Priest had done: But his *Christian* Concern for them was ill requited by the ruder Sort, who beat him, threw him violently upon the Stones, and haled him through the Streets to the Bayliff's House, who committed him to Prison, and ordered him to be put into the inner Ward, to prevent his speaking to the People. We shall next lay before our Readers the Copy of a Presentment exhibited at the Quarter Sessions for this County, viz.

" Ipswich, Suffolk.

Presentment
of Timothy
Grimble.

" THE Jury for his Highness *Richard*, Lord-Protector of the Common-
" wealth of *England, Scotland, and Ireland*, and the Dominions and
" Territories thereunto belonging, upon their Oaths do present, that *Timothy*
" *Grimble*, late of *Ipswich* in the County aforesaid, Mariner, at *Ipswich* afore-
" said, on the 7th Day of *January* 1658, and continually after, until the Day
" of the taking this Inquisition, hath received into his House, countenanced,
" harboured, and supported diverse *dissolute, idle, loose, and suspected Persons,*
" *Disturbers of the publick Peace*, to the Jurors unknown, commonly called
" *Quakers*, of evil Conversation, doth also keep *Disorder, evil Rule and Govern-*
" *ment in his House*, to the great Nufance of his Neighbours, and other People
" of this Commonwealth, and against the Peace.

" JOHN MALL,	JOHN DOUTY,
" CHARLES WRIGHT,	SAMUEL HUMPHRY,
" JOSEPH HAYMOR,	ROBERT GROVES,
" RICHARD THURSTON,	JOHN HAMONT,
" ROBERT STEBBING,	JOHN GRAY,
" EDWARD KEENE,	RICHARD CLOPTON,
" EDMUND DARBY,	WILLIAM GOODALE,
" THOS. WRIGHT jun.	THOMAS GRIGG,
" JOHN JOLLEY,	RICHARD HUMPHRY,
" PETER COLE,	THOMAS BROOK.

To this Presentment an *Answer* was written by some of the *Friends* concerned, and signed by *Robert Duncon, George Whitehead, and Robert Grassingham*: The Substance of which *Answer* is contained in the following *Abstract*, viz.

Answer to the
the said Pre-
sentment.

" LET all sober People observe how envious these Jurymen and Inquisitors
" have appeared against *Timothy Grimble* and his Friends, &c.
" For, first, their Presentment being grounded and made up of false Accu-
" sations, gross Lies and Slanders, the Meeting that we had at *Timothy's* House
" (which was the 6th Day of the Eleventh Month 1658) was a peaceable
" Meeting for the Service of God and his Worship, and the Holy Truth therein
" held forth, and no Cause thereby given for these Jurors, or any others, to be
" offended at such a Meeting, which was both according to the Law of God,
" and also tolerated by the Government. What Enmity and Malignity there-
" fore appears in such a scandalous Presentment, thus to defame an honest Man
" for suffering a peaceable Meeting, and entertaining quiet innocent People
" at his House, who ought by Law to be protected, and not punished for the
" Exercise of their Religion, or Conscience toward God.
" 2. As for those called *Quakers*, whom *Timothy Grimble* received and har-
" boured in his House, who, they say, are unknown to the Jurors, some of
" their Names are *Robert Duncon, Robert Grassingham, Joseph Scott, and George*
" *Whitehead*: They are well known to be sober honest Persons, and also
" responsible where they live.
" Note. What a large Conscience did appear in these Jurors, who could
" swear against Men *unknown to them*, and upon Oath present them so highly
" criminal, as being no other than *dissolute, loose, idle, lewd, and suspected*
" *Persons,*

“ *Persons*, while unknown to these their Accusers, and Swearers against *SUFFOLK.*
 “ them. 1659.

“ 3. We ask you Jurors, wherein did we called *Quakers*, whom you have
 “ sworn against, *disturb the publick Peace*? And what *evil Conversation* can
 “ you charge or prove against us? If you cannot prove Matter of Fact
 “ charged, and by you sworn against us, be ashamed thereof. Surely those
 “ Magistrates, or that Court that have such a Presentment as yours, ought
 “ not to trust your Oath to the same, but to examine you of the particular
 “ Crimes or Accusations charged, you having grossly, and very unjustly, de-
 “ famed *Timothy Grimble*, and his Friends called *Quakers*, for which you are
 “ accountable. Let the Magistrates inquire of you, what *suspected Persons* he
 “ hath harboured continually, and try you from what Ground you have cast
 “ such Aspersions upon sober honest Men? And what *Disorder, evil Rule* and
 “ *Government*, doth *Timothy Grimble* keep in his House? What sober honest
 “ Neighbour will say, that they are annoyed or disturbed by *Disorder, evil*
 “ *Rule or Government*, kept at *Timothy Grimble's*? Produce your Proofs for
 “ these your Accusations, or else, like forsworn Persons, for-ever stop your
 “ Mouths, and let Shame cover your Lips, for have you herein acted either
 “ like *rational Men*, or *Christians*? Or done as you would be done by? Would
 “ you take it well to be presented or indicted for entertaining your Friends, as
 “ you have presented, and grossly misrepresented *Timothy Grimble* for harbouring
 “ his Friends?

“ 4. Many can witness, that the Meetings we had at *Timothy Grimble's*
 “ House in *Ipswich*, were peaceable and lawful: And those Priests and Pro-
 “ fessors, who were offended at them, had done more honestly and discreetly,
 “ if they had come to our Faces in our Meetings, to have manifested openly,
 “ what *Lewdness* or *Errors* were practised or held forth by any of us, if they
 “ could, rather than go behind our Backs, to instigate the Magistrates against
 “ us, without any just Cause. But those who have thus acted in the Dark
 “ against the Innocent, their Deceit is made manifest to their Shame; and the
 “ more, by grossly abusing innocent People, as the said Jurors and their
 “ Abettors have done.

“ 5. To Swear at all is a Transgression against Christ's Doctrine: But to
 “ present Lies and Slanders upon Oath, to cause the Innocent to suffer, is a
 “ much greater Offence, which these Jurors have done against *Timothy Grimble*,
 “ and his Friends called *Quakers*, who are Witnesses against all *Idleness, Disorder*,
 “ *Looseness, Lewdness*, and *evil Government*, whatsoever; though thus the
 “ Wicked have made Lies their Refuge, and like Men mad with Envy, have
 “ forged such Slanders against honest Men, as are contained in the said Pre-
 “ sentment. So that we may even say with the Prophet, *They that were mad*
 “ *against us, were sworn against us*, Psalm cii. 8.”

To the foregoing Observations we think it not improper to annex *George Whitehead's* Letter

“ To the Inhabitants of *Ipswich*, both Teachers and People, viz.

“ O H! the Pride, Highmindedness, and Self-conceitedness, which abounds
 “ in the Town of *Ipswich*; and Oh! what a Feignedness, Hypocrisy, and
 “ Will-worship is among the Professors, who ignorantly worship an unknown
 “ God according to their own Wills, who have gotten Words of the Saints,
 “ and of the Scriptures of Truth, but the Light which led the Saints they are
 “ out of, and have grieved and quenched the Spirit of it, when it hath ap-
 “ peared in their own Conscience, to convince them of Sin and Evil; so that
 “ their Sin remains in them, and the Curse of God hath Power over them
 “ that live in Pride, Deceit, Superstition, and ungodly Conversation.

“ There hath been a Zeal stirring for the Lord in several of them formerly,
 “ according to what they knew, but now much Deadness, Coldness, Emptiness,

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“ and

G. White-
 head's Letter
 to the People
 at Ipswich.

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“and Barrenness is over their Spirits, and Unrighteousness hath the Pre-
“eminence among them. The Teachers have gotten the Saints Words to
“speak of, and are painted over with an empty Profession, and a feigned
“Humility, but inwardly they are proud, covetous, and rebellious, resisting
“the Truth, and make a Trade upon the Scriptures, *Teaching for Hire, and*
“*Divining for Money*: Such the true Prophets of God cried against, for they
“are as *Women that sew Pillows under Peoples Arm-holes, speaking Peace to the*
“*Wicked, where there is no Peace.* And they are as *Foxes in the Desert, that*
“*are greedy, waiting for their Prey.* And much Wilfulness and Slavery is in
“the proud and covetous Priests, and in many of the Professors, *who will*
“*not bring their Deeds to the Light, neither dare they try all Things,* as the
“Apostle commanded, but cry out against us called Quakers, behind our
“Backs, but would not be tried Face to Face, nor suffer others to come and
“try us Face to Face, though for the Truth's Sake, several of us have suffered
“among them in Prison. So that many of the Teachers incense the People
“against us, and that which we profess, which is the TRUTH: So are they
“kept in Slavery and Ignorance. And to you Professors in Ipswich, Christ
“may justly say to you, *I was a Stranger, and ye took me not in. I was in*
“*Prison among you, and you visited me not: Inasmuch as ye did it not to these*
“*little Ones that believe in me, who have suffered among you, ye did it not to*
“*me.* Yet this from the Lord I declare unto you, that the Day of Visitation,
“and the Kingdom of God, is come nigh unto you, and Wo unto them that
“still walk in Filthiness, resisting and *bating the Light,* which is God's Witness
“in their own Consciences, which doth convince them of Sin and Evil, and
“reproves them when they commit it. Take heed how you always resist the
“Truth, since the Lord hath warned you, lest you perish in your Iniquities,
“and your Blood lie upon your own Heads, and upon your Teachers, who
“retain the Wages of Unrighteousness, and exercise Lordship over you,
“to keep you in Ignorance from the *true Light in your selves,* which Christ
“hath *enlightned* you withal, which all must come to and follow, who ever
“come to be saved from the *Wrath of God,* and from the Curse which abideth
“upon the Children of Disobedience. Away with all your empty Professions,
“and let such as *name the Name of Christ depart from Iniquity.* Away with
“all your proud and covetous Teachers, who preach for Hire, who make a
“Trade upon the Saints Words, which were spoken forth freely from the *Spirit*
“*of Truth.* Away with all your Pride, gaudy Attire, and Superfluity of
“Naughtiness; the Lord is grieved with you because of these Things, you
“are not come to the *modest Apparel* outwardly, nor to the *true Adorning* in-
“wardly, which is not costly nor gaudy Attire, but it is that of a meek and
“quiet Spirit, which is of great Price with the Lord. *How long shall the*
“*Lord wait to be gracious to you,* and yet ye resist his Grace, which hath ap-
“peared unto you, *to teach you to deny Ungodliness and Worldly Lusts, and to*
“*live soberly and godly in this evil World.*

“How long shall the Lord warn you, and yet you repent not? How oft
“shall he call you, *by his Light in you,* out of your Filthiness, and yet you
“answer him not, nor hearken to his Voice? How often shall the Lord
“knock at the Door of your Hearts, and yet ye open not? Yet know that
“his Spirit will not always strive with Man: But it cometh to pass, that they
“that *will be filthy, must be filthy still.* Therefore, as you love your Souls,
“take Warning.

“From a Friend to all that desire to know the Lord, and one who, for
“the Gospel's Sake, hath lately suffered fifteen Weeks, or above, in
“Ipswich Prison.

Suffolk, the 1st Day of the
Ninth Month, 1658.

“GEORGE WHITEHEAD.”

Thus

Thus incessantly, either by Preaching or Writing, was this Servant of Christ employed in the Exercise of the Talent he had received, for the Benefit and Instruction even of those who persecuted him, and often returned Scorning and Abuses for the Christian Labour of Love bestowed upon them.

We return to the Sufferings of some others about the same Time, viz. *Robert Duncon, Robert Mann, Bartholomew Bridges, Robert Davies, and William Gardener*, who going to a Meeting at *Aldborough*, on the First-day of the Week, had their Horses taken from them, which for a pretended Forfeiture of 10s. each, were sold for 20l. and no Part of the Price returned to the Owners. Others, going to the same Meeting on Foot, were put into the Stock-house or Cage. Also *Henry Mather* and *John Burch*, riding to the same Meeting, had an Horse taken from them worth 6l. and a great Coat valued at 20s. for a Fine of 10s. each, for a pretended Breach of the Sabbath.

In this and the preceding Years, we find taken by Distress, toward repairing the Houses for the then National Worship,

	l.	s.	d.	
From <i>Anthony Kettle</i> , of <i>Edwardstone</i> , for 1l. 1s. 6d. demanded, Goods worth	7	9	0	Distresses.
<i>Anthony Appleby</i> , of <i>Haverill</i> , for 1s. 8d. demanded, Goods worth	0	12	0	
<i>George Evan</i> , of the same, for 6d. demanded, Goods worth	0	14	0	
<i>William Driver</i> and <i>Thomas Pinson</i> , for 1l. 12s. demanded, Goods worth	2	6	0	
For 2l. 15s. 8d.	11	1	0	Taken

ANNO 1660. On the 25th of the Month called *May*, *Thomas Cosley*, of *Badsey*, was cast into Prison at *Melton*, for refusing to pay Tithes.

In this Year also were taken for Tithes,

	l.	s.	d.	
From <i>James Norton</i> , for 12l. 12s. 6d. demanded, Goods worth	18	0	0	
<i>Arthur Goddard</i> , for 6l. 19s. 8d. demanded, seven Cows worth	28	0	0	
<i>William Tudderman</i> , for 4l. 10s. demanded, five Cows worth	22	0	0	
For 24l. 2s. 2d.	68	0	0	Taken

On the 3d of the Month called *June*, a Meeting was held in the House of *William Gardener*, of *Pettistrey*, to which came a Company of armed Horsemen, who pulled down *Joseph Fuce* then preaching, and carried him with *William Gardener* to Justice *Rivet*, but he, after some Examination, inclined to discharge them: Whereupon they, who took them, applied to another Justice, who released *Fuce*, but committed *Gardener* to Prison.

Toward the Conclusion of this Year we find the following Persons in the several Goals of this County, who had been generally committed for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, being most of them taken out of their religious Meetings, and some from their own Houses and lawful Employments, viz.

In EDMUNDSBURY Goal, thirty three, viz.

William Burrough a Man of eighty Years of Age, *James King*, *Edward Dikes*, *John Peach*, *Robert Serjeant*, *Robert Prick*, *Robert Debedge*, *Henry Hubbert*, *John King*, *John Middish*, *Jeffery Bullock*, *John Grasper*, *Richard Waite*, *John Crisimas*, *Thomas Smith*, *John Partridge*, *Thomas Manning*, *Thomas Sickelprice*, *Edward Hindes*, *Samuel Dearsley*, *James Nunn*, *Roger Hawkins*, *William Hayle*, *Joseph Riddlesden*, *Samuel Aston*, *Caleb Lambert*, *Robert Clark*,
John

SUFFOLK.
1659.

Sufferings for
Meeting.

Imprisonment
and Distresses
for Tithes.

Imprisonment
of William
Gardener.

A List of Pri-
soners in the
several Goals
of this County.

SUFFOLK.
1660.

John Woodgate, William Woodgate, Charles Woodgate, George Lamb, Joseph Atkin, and Joseph Burrough : Most of these dwelt at *Sudbury, Lavenham, and Parts adjacent.*

In BLYBOROUGH Goal, nine, viz.

Richard Townsend, Thomas Burcham, John Coleman sen. John Coleman jun. James Fulcher, Roger Cole, William Bennett, William Thurton, and John George : Two of these, *Richard Townsend and John George*, were taken from their Labour, *Thomas Burcham* out of his Bed, and the other six from a Meeting at *Leostaff*.

In MELTON Goal, thirteen, viz.

John Birch, John Camplin, Stephen Brightwell, Godfrey Brightwell, John Fryer, Thomas Bond, John Bennett, Nicholas Bennett, John Bennett jun. William Gardener, James Norton, Charles Bond, and Arthur Goddard : All these were summoned to the Quarter Sessions at *Woodbridge*, held the 16th and 17th of the Month called *January*, and being there, had the Oath of Allegiance tendered them : They continued in Prison about four Months.

In ALDBURGH Goal, four, viz.

John Manning, Arthur Cowel, Robert Davis, and Samuel Bridges : Of whom the first three lay there about eighteen Weeks, and the other about eleven Weeks.

In IPSWICH Goal, twenty three, viz.

Thomas Simonds and Henry Hall, taken from a Meeting at *Hoxon*. *Robert Duncon*, apprehended as he was visiting his Friends in *Ipswich*. *William Wall, Anthony Garball, and Robert Pearce*, taken out of a Meeting at *Wallingsworth*. *William Seaman, William Fiddeman, Henry Mather, John Lamb, and Henry Grimble*, taken from a Meeting at the said *Grimble's House* in *Ipswich*. *John Smys, William Alexander, James Harling, and Thomas Gardener*, apprehended in a Meeting at *Needham*. *Samuel Moulson, Timothy Cleaveland, James Tompson, John Spicer, Mary Grimble, John Rackham, and Rose Parker*, taken at a Meeting in *Ipswich*. *Alice Bream* was sent to Prison for admitting Meetings at her House.

Beside those before mentioned, *Frances Smith, Rose Palmer, and Margaret Catmore*, for frequenting Meetings at *Ipswich*, were committed close Prisoners to the Bottom in *Aldburgh*.

More Impri-
sonments.

ANNO 1661. At a Sessions at *Ipswich*, on the 17th of the Fifth Month, *George Painter* eighty six Years of Age, *Henry Driver, Thomas Cooke, Benjamin Reeve, Richard Sparhawke, Diana Fryer, Thomas Pinson, John Pinson, and Joseph Scott*, were indicted for being at Meetings, and committed to *Melton Goal* ; and about the same Time, *William Seaman, Abraham Cole, and John Birch*, were sent to Prison for refusing to give Sureties for their Appearance at Sessions.

On the 29th of the Month called *August*, *Robert Last* was committed to *Ipswich Goal*, and kept there twenty Weeks, because he had suffered some Neighbours to meet at his House, where a Friend, who came to visit him, gave some religious Exhortation.

Commitments
from the Quar-
ter Sessions.

At a Quarter Sessions, held at *Beccles*, on the 13th of the Month called *January*, *William Bennett, William Thurton, Matthew Elmy, Elizabeth Barker, Richard Townsend, John Coleman, and Roger Cole*, were committed to *Blyborough Goal*. And two Days after, at *Woodbridge Sessions*, *Joseph Scott, Thomas Cooke, Benjamin Reeve, Richard Sparhawke, Diana Fryer, and Henry Driver*, were ordered to continue in Prison, whither they had been committed near six Months before. In the same Month *John Wateridge, Nathanael Sbriefe, and Edward Vineyard*, were taken out of a Meeting at *Rickengill*, and committed to *Ipswich Goal*, where they found *Joseph Fuce*, sent thither some Time before for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance.

Prisoners for
Tithes.

In the Month called *February* this Year, were Prisoners for refusing to pay Tithe ; in IPSWICH Goal, *Richard White* : In BLYBOROUGH Goal, *Ralph Randall*,

Randall, near eighty Years of Age: And in *MELTON GOAL*, *Robert Mah* of *SUFFOLK*, *Dallinger*, *Abraham Cole* of *Bromswell*, and *Robert Davis*. In this Year also was taken from *Robert Last*, for Tithe of about three Acres of Meadow-Ground; an Horse and an Hide worth 2*l.* 18*s.*

ANNO 1663. *Thomas Peck* and *Thomas Dockin* were committed to *Edmundsbury Goal*, on the 12th of the Month called *July*, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance.

We shall next insert the Case of *John Shipman* and *Thomas Virtue*, as delivered to the King on the 5th of *November* this Year, viz.

“For the KING and Council

“A short Relation of the sad and cruel Usage of two of the King's peaceable Subjects, *JOHN SHIPMAN* of *Cretingham* in the County of *Suffolk*, and *THOMAS VIRTUE* of *Clopton* in the same County, both of them of that People who are in Scorn called Quakers.

“THE said Persons being informed against by the Sheriff's Bayliffs, and by the Bayliffs of the Liberty, where the said Persons dwelt, upon a Statute made against *Popish Recusants*, and for their not being at the publick Worship for eleven Months past, at a Quarter Sessions holden at *Woodbridge* in the said County, *John Sicklemore* being Judge there, Judgment was past against them by the Justices there, for each of them to pay 20*l.* a Month for eleven Months, eleven score Pounds a-piece, and since, the Bayliffs aforesaid have taken away Goods worth 68*l.* 15*s.* from *John Shipman*, and 35*l.* worth from *Thomas Virtue*, and do threaten to take more from them, until they be satisfied for the Fines of twice eleven score Pounds, although the whole Estate of *Thomas Virtue* is not judged to be worth half so much; so that if the King shew not some Kindness to these poor Men, the said *Thomas Virtue*, his Wife, and six Children, are like to be left destitute: And farther, the said Persons were for the same Cause, both kept in Prison; the one of them a Year and an Half, the other a Year and a Quarter, before their Goods and Cattle were taken away. And the said Bayliffs do threaten, that they will inform against several others of the People aforesaid upon the same Account.

“Therefore our Request to the King is, that he would take Care that the said Sufferers may be relieved, and that they may not thus deeply suffer for Conscience-sake, who wish well to the King and Government.”

By thus representing their Case to the King and Council, it is probable that the farther Seizure of their Estates for those Fines was prevented; and the Intention of their Prosecutors totally to ruin these honest Men, was disappointed.

In the same Year *John Wateridge*, of *Hepworth*, was committed to Prison by a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, the Effect of a Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical Court for Non-conformity to the Church. In this Year also at *Bury Affizes*, *Edward Manning* was fined 40*s.* for not putting off his Hat in Court, and refusing to pay it, was committed to Prison, where he lay about eight Years.

ANNO 1664. In this Year *Henry Gosling* and *Robert Linge* were imprisoned at *Ipswich* for Tithes: Also *Robert Duncon*, *John Edwards*, of *Felsham*, Blacksmith, *Joseph Riddleiden*, of *Boxford*, Husbandman, *Robert Rodwell*, of *Wiverton*, Carpenter, *Thomas Woods*, of *Badwell-Ash*, Linen-weaver, and *Henry Spark*, were committed to the same Goal by Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*.

ANNO 1665. *James Palmer*, for absenting himself from the National Worship, was committed to Prison; as were also *James King* of *Edmundsbury*, and *Thomas Ledeman*, by Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*.

SUFFOLK
1663

Prisoners, for
not Swearing,

Case of John
Shipman and
Thomas Vir-
tue.

Effect of their
Application.

Other Impri-
sonments.

SUFFOLK
1666.

Death of
J. Tompson.

Prisoners for
Tithes.

A great Suf-
fering for
Tithes.

Distress.

Imprisonment.

Distresses, &c.
for Tithes.

Fines and
Distresses for
Meeting.

Prosecutions
for Meetings
at Haverill.

Rigorous
Execution of
Warrants.

ANNO 1666. *Edward Hall*, and *Anne* his Sister, for not conforming to the publick Worship, were sent to *Edmundsbury Goal*, and continued Prisoners there upwards of twenty Months.

James Tompson, *Timothy Cleveland*, and *John Tompson*, coming to visit their Friends in Prison at *Ipswich*, were taken and confined there eight Weeks, by which Confinement the said *James Tompson* contracted a Sickness, of which he died soon after his Discharge thence.

ANNO 1667. In November this Year *William Beets*, for his Testimony against paying Tithes, was committed to *Edmundsbury Goal*, where was Prisoner also at the same Time, *William Bennet*.

ANNO 1668. *John Fryer*, and *Anne* his Wife, were imprisoned at *Edmundsbury*, at the Suit of *William Coppinger* Priest, for Tithes: This Imprisonment was to them a very great Suffering, they being taken away from seven small Children, dependent on their Care and Industry.

In this Year were taken out of the Meeting-house at *Ipswich*, by Distress, a Table and Forms to the Value of 5*l.* 12*s.*

Jonathan Haddock, for being at a religious Meeting in *Chelmondiston*, was imprisoned some Days, and had his Goods taken away by Distress, to the Value of 5*l.* 12*s.*

ANNO 1669. *John Hill*, of *Ipswich*, for a Demand of 3*l.* 12*s.* for Tithes, had his Goods taken away to the Value of 6*l.* His Wife, affrighted and abused by those who made the Distress, suddenly fell in Labour, and was delivered of a dead Child. In this Year also, *Edward Melfop*, taken at a Meeting in *Chelmondiston*, was not only imprisoned, but also had his Goods taken away to the Value of 7*l.* 7*s.* thus suffering a twofold Punishment for one pretended Offence.

ANNO 1670. In the Month called April, *John Bennet* the Elder, *John Haddock*, *Daniel Camplin*, *R. Bridges*, *R. David*, and *John Laurence*, taken at a Meeting at the House of *John Fiddeman*, were committed to *Melton Goal*, till the Sessions at *Woodbridge* a few Days after, where they were fined 50*s.* each. About the same Time *Jonathan Haddock*, for being at a Meeting in *Dallingboe*, was imprisoned four Days, and had his Goods taken away by Distress to the Value of 3*l.* 12*s.* And for being at another Meeting a few Days after, his Horse, worth 5*l.* was taken from him, at a Time when he and his Wife were going a Journey.

Upon the Publication of the *Conventicle-Act* this Year, the Meetings in this County were frequently informed against: Of the Prosecutions which followed, we have some particular Accounts, viz.

I. For Meetings at H A V E R I L L.

No sooner came the Act in Force, than *Robert Dawkins*, a Parish-Officer of *Haverill*, and *Elias Dowty*, an Informer, appeared very active in coming to the Meetings there, which were constantly held both on the First and Fourth Days of the Week, and taking the Names of the Persons present, gave Information to *Gervas Elways*, a Justice of the Peace, and he issued his Warrants for Distress so often, that the whole Estates of the Quakers there were thought too little to satisfy them. Those Warrants were executed with the utmost Rigour, the aforesaid *Dawkins* encouraging the other Informers and Officers, saying, Come Sirs, let's do what we do quickly, for this Trade will not last long. When they had carried away all the Goods out of one Friend's House, they also took the Wood out of his Yard, and when a Neighbour desired them to leave a few old Hop-poles to boil some Milk for the Children, they refused it. From another, for a Fine of 10*s.* they took Cotton-Yarn worth 18*l.* From a third, the Team of Horses out of his Plough. And when they had made Spoil of a poor Weaver's Goods, they brake his Loom in pieces with the Work in it, the only Means he had to get Bread for himself, his sick Wife, and a young Child. The Distresses, taken in a few Months Time, were of the following Values, viz.

From

	l.	s.	d.	SUFFOLK.
From Robert Sharply, Anthony Appleby, and Daniel Gridley	138	0	0	1670.
John Salmon, Giles Barnadiston, and William Reynolds	32	5	0	
Thomas Hall, John Edwards, and John Bird	2	9	0	
Thomas Evans, George Evans, and Richard Power	89	5	0	
	261	19	0	Amount of Distresses.

After all this Spoil, they were kept out of their Meeting-house six Months together in Winter, when they met in the open Street, as constantly as before, and underwent many and grievous Abuses. At first a Justice of the Peace came personally, and commanded them to be dispersed: Afterward the Officers came from Time to Time, and endeavoured to drive them asunder by Violence, till at length, partly weary, and partly ashamed of their Actions, they employed two Watchmen with Halberts, who pushed the Friends up and down the Streets, frequently striking, and sometimes threatening to kill them, adding, that the Justices had told them, *The Law could not punish them if they did*: But one of these Watchmen, being hurt by a Fall, fell sick, and several of the Persons, whom he had abused, relieved him in his Distress, which Christian Charity being taken Notice of by his Fellow, he, though naturally of a rugged Temper, was so affected therewith, that he refused to officiate in that Post any more, and meeting one of them whom he had evil entreated, said to him, *I desire you to forgive me*: adding, *The Blessing of God is among you*. After this the Officers employed another Watchman, who was as rough as the former for some Time, till by Degrees, the Patience and Meekness of the Sufferers over-ruled his Fierceness, so that he would come and sit on the Threshold as quiet as a Lamb, all the Time of the Meeting. Thus weather'd they the Storm, and by a passive Fortitude surmounted the Trials and Troubles they met with.

Farther Abuses.

Effects of Christian Patience.

II. For Meetings at HOXON.

	l.	s.	d.
From John Ameson, for Meetings at his House	25	0	0
John Sweat, John Gosling, John Dickinson, and Peter Martin	3	2	0
John Edwards and Robert Bound	22	2	6
	50	4	6

2. For Meetings at Hoxon.

So officious was Justice Dade, as to impose a Fine on John Edwards upon a bare Supposition of a Preacher's being present at Hoxon, when the Meeting was wholly held in Silence: A Copy of the Warrant he issued on that Occasion, is as follows, viz.

An Officious Justice.

Suffolk Is.
WHEREAS John Edwards and his Wife, of our Town, have been duly convicted before me, for unlawfully assembling at the House of John Ameson, of Hoxon within this County, upon the 22d Day of May last, under Colour or Pretence of exercising Religion in other Manner than according to the Liturgy of the Church of England, for which a Fine of 5 s. is imposed upon each of them, it being their first Offence within the late Statute for preventing and suppressing seditious Conventicles. And forasmuch as the Preacher of the said unlawful Assembly, his Name and Habitation is not known unto me, I do impose upon the said John Edwards eight Pounds in Part of the said Preacher's Fine, which he should have paid, if his Name and Habitation had been known, and he thought able to have paid the same; which Sums of eight Pounds and ten Shillings, you and every

Warrant granted on Supposition of a Preacher.

SUFFOKL. 1670. " every of you are, in his Majesty's Name, charged and commanded to
 " demand of him the said *John Edwards*, and upon his Refusal to pay the
 " same, to levy it by Distress and Sale of his Goods and Chattels, rendering
 " to him the Overplus, and the Money so levied, forthwith to deliver to me,
 " to be distributed according to the Uses in the said late Act set forth and
 " declared: And hereof fail you not at your Perils. Given under my Hand
 " and Seal at *Tanington*, the 14th Day of *June* 1670.

To the Constables, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor of *Wingfield*.

3. For Meetings at Elm-futt.

III. For Meetings at E L M S U T T.

Goods worth

Taken from *Joseph Burroughs*, for a Meeting at his House
Philip Smith, *Deborah Wood*, and *Margaret Baker*, for being at the same Meeting

26 0 0
 1 1 0
 1 1 0

4. For Meetings at Edmundsbury.

IV. For Meetings at EDMUNDSBURY.

On the 3d of the Month called *July*, *Matthew Warren*, Alderman, with *James Cobb* and *Robert Sheape*, Justices, and some Constables, came to an Assembly sitting in Silence, took several of their Names, and turned them all out: On the 10th of the same Month they came again, and did the like: On the 17th they set a Ward at the Door of the Meeting-house, and kept the Friends out, who nevertheless met, standing together near the Door, whereupon the Alderman and Justice committed *James King*, *Edward Dikes*, *Henry Hubbard*, *George Gibson*, *Robert Serjeant*, and *Thomas King*, to Prison; he also issued Warrants of Distress for the two former Meetings, by which were taken

Goods worth

From *Thomas Tillet*, the Owner of the House where they met, though he was not a Quaker
Henry Hubbard and *James King*
Edward Dikes, *John Peachy*, and *Robert Serjeant*
Thomas Simons, *Susanna Butcher*, and *George Gibson*

44 0 0
 13 3 8
 19 1 6
 3 1 0
 79 6 2

They who made the Distress on *Edward Dikes*, entered his Corn-chamber, thresht out what they thought fit, and would not let him see it measur'd.

Robert Yardly, for a Meeting at his House in *Buxhall*, had his Goods taken away, to the Value of 13 l. 10 s.

5. For Meetings at Herringfleet and Beccles.

V. For Meetings at HERRINGFLEET and BECCLES.

Goods worth

Taken from *Martha Crofswell*, for Meetings at her House
Margaret Shorton, of *Pakefield*
Matthew Thirton, of *Kirtly*

27 0 0
 6 10 0
 8 11 0
 42 1 0

VI. For

VI. For Meetings at IPSWICH.

	Goods worth			SUFFOLK. 1670.
	l.	s.	d.	
Taken from <i>Jonatban Haddock</i>	18	2	0	6. For Meetings at Ipswich.
<i>Robert Simons, Joseph Tomson, and Thomas Melsup</i>	3	12	0	
<i>John Lamly jun. Timothy Cleveland, and Robert Rushforth</i>	11	10	0	
<i>Samuel Swann, Edward Melsup, and Robert Mann</i>	3	15	0	
	36	19	0	

Edward Melsup had also his Goods, worth 1 l. 10 s. taken away for refusing to bear Arms in the *Militia*.

On the 4th of *September*, *Robert Brightwell*, of *Ufford*, was arrested for Tithes, at the Suit of *Richard Lufkin*, Priest of that Place: He was afterward fued to an Execution, and lay in *Melton Goal* nine Years, notwithstanding the Priest, his Prosecutor, had without Law taken a Mare out of his Stable, worth 8 l. and had also sent his Servants, who carried away whole Loads of Corn at a Time.

Robert Huntington was also imprisoned this Year, for Tithes, in *Ipswich Goal*.

ANNO 1671. On the 23d of the Month called *June*, *Edward Plumsted*, of *Old-Newton*, was committed to *Ipswich Goal* by an *Exchequer* Procefs, for Tithes, and was detained there several Years.

ANNO 1672. In this Year *Edward Hall*, *Anne Hall*, *Edward Manning*, *John Bragg*, *John Sparke*, *James Lilly* and *Thomas King*, were discharged out of Prison, in this County, by the King's Letters Patent for releasing such of this People as were then confined at the King's Suit.

ANNO 1673. *Thomas Ellis*, of *Glensford*, for suffering a religious Assembly at his House, had his Goods taken away, which, though really worth 16 l. 5 s. were sold for no more than 40 s.

John Hill, of *Ipswich*, was committed to the County Goal, by a *Significavit* from the Ecclesiastical Court, on a Prosecution for Tithes, at the Suit of one *Kaebeck*, a Priest in *Margaret's* Parish in *Ipswich*. Also *Samuel Freeman* was imprisoned by a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, at the Suit of *William Maxey*, Priest. In this Year also, *Edward Melsup* was committed to the County Goal at *Ipswich*, for refusing to pay toward the Repairs of the Steeple-house there.

	l.	s.	d.	
ANNO 1674. <i>Leonard Pearson</i> , of <i>Heavingham</i> , for permitting a Meeting at his House, suffered Distress of five Cows worth	22	0	0	Distresses.
Also <i>John Harvey</i> and <i>Tobias Abbey</i> , for being at the same Meeting, had Goods taken away, to the Value of	0	17	0	
	22	17	0	

John Downham, of *Affington*, was imprisoned in *Bury Goal* by a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, at the Prosecution of one *Garraway*, Priest of *Westerton*, for Tithes.

	l.	s.	d.	
ANNO 1675. Taken by Distress for religious Meetings,				
From <i>Robert Sharp</i> , of <i>Haverill</i> , Grocery Wares worth	15	0	0	Distresses for Meetings.
<i>George Evans</i> , working Tools, and other Goods, worth	4	0	0	
<i>Daniel Catlin</i> , Wood, Weavers Tools, and Utensils, worth	2	0	0	

SUFFOLK

1675.



From

Ferdinando Salmon, Brass and Pewter worth

Mary Fish Widow, a Barrel with Beer, and other Things, worth

Daniel Gridley, Fustians worth

Brought over

l. s. d.

21 0 0

8 12 0

0 6 0

27 0 0

56 18 0

Excommuni-
cation.

On the 17th of the Month called June, George Glanfield was arrested upon a Significavit of Excommunication for not paying Tithes, and committed to Prison. Being there, he was served with a Sessions Process for not going to the publick Worship.

Grievous Pro-
secutions for
Tithes.

Thomas Kendall was sued in an Action of 67l. for two Years Tithe of Land not half that Yearly Rent, at the Suit of William Batty, Priest of Hitcham, and committed to Prison, where he lay sixteen Months, and then being in a weak State of Health, was hurried in one Day above sixty Miles to London: He was, by reason of his Weakness, carried to Westminster-hall in a Chair, and from thence committed to the Fleet. His Prosecutor was heard to say, that All the Stock on this poor Man's Ground, and all the Goods in his House, were no more than sufficient to satisfy him. He at the same Time prosecuted the poor Man's Wife and Daughter at the Quarter Sessions, for absenting themselves from the National Worship, employing Bayliffs to take them up, and threatening their Ruin.

Prosecutions
for Steeple-
house Rates.

We find in this Year Edward Hinde, of Sudbury, committed to Prison for refusing to pay 2 s. 6 d. toward the Steeple-house Rate: And for the like Cause, George Evans, Robert Sharp, Daniel Catlin, and Daniel Gridley, all of Haverill, were committed to Bury Goal. One of the Prosecutors of these last four, was Robert Darkin, a Woolendrapier, who, when Daniel Gridley's Wife reproved him for his Cruelty in promoting Informations against her Husband, and sending him to Prison, telling him, that Such Actions might provoke God against him, he called her Bitch, and Whore, and profanely said, What do you tell me of God? He also beat her twice down to the Ground, causing her Leg and Arm to bleed, and said, He would leave the Quakers there not worth a Groat.

Cruel Usage
of Prisoners.

On the 29th of the Month called January this Year, William Falkner and John Manning were committed to Prison on Writs de Excommunicato capiendo, for Absence from their Parish-Church: The Keeper of the Goal, Thomas Watson, was very cruel to them, and kept them twenty three Weeks together in a Place called the Bottom, among Felons, without suffering them to have either Chair or Stool, or so much as a Stone, to sit on.

Death of
G. Grainger.

In the same Year George Deane, of Amerton, was taken from his Work by an Apparitor and a Bayliff, on a Significavit of Excommunication for not going to the publick Worship, and by them carried to Ipswich Goal. As they were going thither they met Giles Grainger, against whom they had also a like Significavit for the same Cause, and took him also to the same Prison. Being there, they were also served with a Sessions Process. The Goaler lodged them on a Bed where a Person had lately lain sick of the Small-Pox, by Means whereof Giles Grainger took that Distemper, and died of it: His Wife coming to visit him in his Sickness, was detained by a Sessions Process for the same Cause as her Husband. Giles was a poor Man, who rented a small Farm of about 16l. per Annum, himself and Wife being all his Family, except a Child of three Years old, which she had left at Home. The sorrowful Circumstances of this poor Woman were so far from being commiserated by the Priest of the Parish where she had lived, that his Agents soon after took from her Corn to the Value of 4l. 10 s. being twice as much as the real Value of the Tithe could amount to. In this Year also, Samuel Freeman the Elder, of Shotley, and Elizabeth Stotte, were imprisoned on Processes at Sessions, for Absence from the National Worship.

Oppression of
a poor Widow.

William

William Scarce, of *Wortham*, was prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court on a bare Presumption of his not being legally married. He was excommunicated and committed to Prison, although indeed he had been married, before he was called a *Quaker*, after the accustomed Rites of the Church of *England*.

SUFFOLK.
1675.

Unjust Prosecution.

ANNO 1676. *William Greenwood*, of *Brisit*, had taken from him for Tithes, by a Warrant from the Manour Court, three Cows and an Heifer worth 10*l.* 10*s.*

Distress for Tithes.

ANNO 1677. On the 16th of *October*, *John Shipman*, of *Creetingham*, was imprisoned for Tithes of *Herbage*, at the Suit of *Stephen Trappit*, Priest: And in this Year also, *Edmund Hankins*, of *Boxford*, was sent to Prison for Tithes, by a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, at the Suit of one *Bromball*, Priest of *Polsted*.

Imprisonments for Tithes.

Taken at several Times this Year for Meetings, by Warrants from *Jeffery Burwell* and *Thomas Bright*, Justices,

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>John Hayward</i> , of <i>Bayton</i> , Goods worth	25	0	0
<i>Thomas Lucas</i> , of <i>Packenham</i> , Goods worth	0	15	0
<i>Thomas Balbrook</i> , of <i>Woolpit</i> , two Cows worth	7	0	0
<i>Thomas Judy</i> , of <i>Wetherfelden</i> , whose Dwelling-house the Spoilers broke open, two Cows, a Bed, &c. worth	13	0	0
<i>Thomas Woods</i> , of the same, two Cows worth	6	0	0
	51	15	0

Distresses for Meetings.

From *Edmund Bally* they took a Mare, two Swine, and other Things, worth 9*l.* 10*s.* which Mare was the Property of another Person, and the Owner of her was advised by Council, to take Witness with him and demand his Mare, and if they refused to deliver her, he might take her where he could find her. He did so, and finding her in a Pasture where the Constable and Informer had put her, took her Home. Whereupon Justice *Burwell* issued his Warrant to apprehend the Owner of the Mare, and threatened to send him to Goal for Felony in taking his own, and so terrified the poor Man, that he got from him 20*s.* in Hand, and obliged him to find a Bondsman for Payment of 5*l.* more; for which the Justice arrested the Surety, and made it cost them 29*l.*

A peculiar Case.

The Constables also broke open the House of *Alexander Cooke*, cutting his Door in pieces. This was done by the Constables, at the Instigation of one *Thomas Bally*, an Informer, who, though as to his Person he was a very Cripple, took very much upon him, and acted with great Insolence; for coming one Day to a Meeting, he ordered a Guard to be set at the Door, and directed his Associates to bring the Stocks thither, and caused *Anthony Hayward* to be set into them: Being asked, *By what Authority he did so?* He answered, *I am Warrant, I am Constable, I am Justice myself.*

Insolence of an Informer.

ANNO 1678. In this Year was a violent Prosecution of this People for their Meetings held at *Woodbridge*, on such of them as dwelt there and at other adjacent Places, a special Warrant being granted by the Justices to the Constables for that Purpose, of which the following is a Copy, viz.

“ *Suffolk* *is.*

“ **W** H E R E A S Complaint has been made unto his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County, by the Inhabitants of your Town, against certain seditious Persons, who in Defiance and Opposition to his Majesty's Laws made for the Peace and Welfare of the Nation, and against special Warning given them to the Contrary (in regard of this more than ordinary suspicious Time of Danger from such Jesuitical Male-content, as may hereby take Advantage to creep and farther seduce them) do notwithstanding

A special Warrant against the Quakers as dangerous Persons.

SUFFOLK.
1678.

standing, under Colour or Pretence of the Exercise of Religion, in other Manner than according to the Liturgy and Practice of the Church of England, contrary to the late Act in this Case provided, and against the Peace of our Sovereign Lord the King of England, meet, and of late in great Numbers, from several Parts of the Kingdom, to the greater Suspicion and Terror of his Majesty's liege People, at a spacious Meeting-house nigh the Church in your Town, lately built and erected by them for that Purpose, where they may, at such Meetings or Conventicles and unlawful Assemblies, contrive Insurrections, or other evil and dangerous Practices against the Church and State, as late Experience hath shewed. These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, strictly to charge and command you, and every of you, that you repair to the said new Meeting-house, or other House or Place in your said Town where they shall at any Time hereafter, during your Office, so assemble or attempt to meet, five Persons or more, of the Age of sixteen Years or upwards, Subjects of this Realm, over and besides those of the same Household, where there is a Family inhabiting, at such Times of their Meeting, as you shall by diligent Enquiry find out, for the preventing, suppressing, and dispersing such seditious Conventicles, by charging and commanding them, in the King's Majesty's Name, peaceably to disperse and depart forthwith to their several Homes and Abode, and not break his Majesty's Peace by meeting in such an unlawful Manner; and if any of them, after such lawful Charge and Warning given, shall refuse or neglect to obey the same, and not immediately disperse and depart from thence, you are hereby required to take what particular and special Notice you can of all such Persons, their Names and Sir-names, and Places of respective Abodes, and what they do at such Meetings contrary to his Majesty's Laws, and to give Account thereof to one of his Majesty's next Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, before whom you are also to bring as many of them as you can take, for the more effectual proceeding against them according to Law: And in case Entrance be denied you, or any Opposition offered, that then you break open and enter the said House to the Purpose aforesaid, and call in such farther Aid and Assistance as you shall find necessary for the suppressing and dispersing of them, and better Preservation of his Majesty's Peace herein: And hereof fail not. Given under our Hands and Seals this 18th Day of December 1678.

To the Constables of Woodbridge,
and to every of them, for the
Execution hereof.

J. BARKER,
R. BROOK,
NICH^s. BACON,
THO. BACON,
JOHN BRAME.

Prosecutions
in Consequence
of that War-
rant.

In Consequence of this Warrant the Constables soon began to act, for on the 22d of the same Month, they kept the Friends by Force out of their Meeting-house, and being met in the Street, Justice Bacon came and committed John Bennett, Richard Woods, John Laurence, Edward Rigges, Benjamin Freeman, Thomas Fox, Matthew Skinner, Joseph Fuller, Thomas Virtue, William Page, and Robert Tompson, to Melton Goal, where the said Robert Tompson died a Prisoner soon after. For other succeeding Meetings, Warrants for Distresses were issued, by which many deeply suffered. John Bennett, of Woodbridge, being fined 9*l*. 15*s*. had his Goods seized worth 10*l*. 12*s*. which being underfold, fell short of the Fine, wherefore Justice Batty fined the Constables for Neglect of Duty, because they did not break open the Man's Dwelling-house and take more. At another Time the Justices, Batty and Bacon, came in Person, and ordered the same Man's Doors to be broke open, and his Goods taken away worth 40*l*. and at a third Time, Justice Bacon himself got in at a Window,

Window, and ordered the Inside Lock of the Door to be taken off, and Goods to be seized worth 16*l*. SUFFOLK.
1678.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From Joseph Fuller, of Dillings, they took an Haystack and an Horse worth	12	0	0
John Smith, of Hasketon, a Feather-bed, two Bolsters, and a Cover, worth	3	10	0
Robert Collington, of Cassegrave, a Mare worth	5	0	0
Thomas Mann, of Grandesburgh, Hay and Wood worth	11	0	0
John Laurence, of Boulge, Hay, Plough, Harrows, &c. worth	5	10	0
Peter Cross, of Woodbridge, seventy eight Ells of Linen, &c. worth	9	14	0
Richard Wood, of the same, Lead and other Things worth	3	0	0
William Bedford, of Woodbridge, seventy five Yards of Linen worth	2	9	0
Jonathan Seaman, six Quarters of Wheat, and Bedding, worth	17	0	0
Clement Carter, Goods worth	2	10	0
Thomas Lind, of Melton, Hay and Steel worth	3	10	0
William Skinner, of Dallingo, Hay worth	2	10	0
William Pearls, of Woodbridge, Deals and Forms worth	5	0	0
Edward Rigges, of the same, six Quarters of Wheat worth	13	0	0
Nathanael Keeble, of Tunstall, two Horses, two Mares, and a Cart, worth	19	0	0
Robert Davie, of the same, two Coats worth	1	10	0
Thomas King, of Ufford, Goods worth	1	7	0
	117	10	0

In this Year Robert Prick, of Bury, was a Prisoner for refusing to pay toward repairing the Steeple-house, and for Easter-Offerings, having been then confined fourteen Months: And for the like Causes Benjamin Reeve, of Debenham, was kept close Prisoner in Ipswich Goal: Also George Lea, of How, was committed to Prison for Tithes, at the Suit of Robert Manton, of Letheringham, Improprator: Likewise George Driver, of Clopton, was cast into Prison by a Significavit out of the Ecclesiastical Court, at the Suit of the Wardens, for not going to the National Worship: As was also James Fiddeman, of Ipswich: And in the same Year Martha Glanfield, of Hackstead, Widow, on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo.

These were also prosecuted, and Seizure was made on their Effects, by the Statutes against Popish Recusants, viz.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
Stephen Boldo and John Page, to the Value of	3	10	0	
Thomas Judy, of Ashfield	12	0	0	
Thomas Woods, of Wetherden	5	0	0	
	20	10	0	

ANNO 1679. For their Constancy in publickly assembling to worship God, Goods were taken by Distress of the following Values, viz.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
From Robert Johnson of Ufford, and William Page of Debbidge	2	2	0	
Godfrey Brightwell of Bredfield, and Samuel Tonel of the same	1	4	0	
	3	6	0	

SUFFOLK.

1679.

Brought over

3 6 0

From *Susanna Partridge*, Harrows and other Utensils of Husbandry

} 0 15 0

Francis Knock of Shotsham, and *George Stuard* of Sutton

} 1 0 0

John Shotter, *Thomas Brown*, and *William Sadsby*, all of *Wickham Market*

} 1 14 6

Daniel Churchman of *Petistry*, *Thomas Virtue* of *Debbidge*, and *John Bally* of *Bayton*

} 4 16 0

Thomas Lucas, *John Ransom*, and the Widow *Adkins*

} 5 15 0

George Gibson of *Bury*

} 4 10 0

The said *John Bally* and *Thomas Lucas*, for visiting a poor Widow in her Sickness, were informed against as holding a Conventicle, fined, and had their Goods taken away, worth

} 8 10 0

30 6 6

Imprisonment
of W. Ben-
nett.

ANNO 1683. On the 12th of the Month called *August*, the Parochial Officers of *Woodbridge*, excited thereto by *Edward Brume*, Priest of that Place, came to the Meeting there, and two of them, *John Firman*, Churchwarden, and *Robert Chapman*, Constable, violently seized *William Bennett*, being on his Knees at Prayer, and haled him and several others before *Edmund Jenny*, Justice, who committed them to *Melton Goal*, where *William Bennett* was close confined till Sessions, when he was indicted for being at a Riotous Assembly: He used many Arguments to shew that the religious Meetings he frequented were peaceable, and purely to worship God, and pleaded *Not Guilty* to the Indictment: He was then required to give Bail for his Appearance at another Sessions, and to be of the good Behaviour; which refusing to do, he was recommitted till another Sessions, and brought with others upon his Trial before *Christopher Melton*, Chairman: He pleaded his Cause with so much Force of Reason, that the Jury brought in their Verdict *Not Guilty*. At which the Chairman being displeased, persuaded them to return and alter their Verdict: upon which they brought them in *Guilty of an unlawful Assembly*: The Chairman thereupon ordered *William*, who was a sickly Man, to be carried to *Ipswich* the same Day in order to be fined, it being in the sharpest Time of that Winter, so remarkable for Extremity of Cold: In going thither he was very wet, it snowing hard all the Way; and being come thither late, and many other Prisoners with him, for want of Beds, he was obliged to sit up all Night in that wet cold Condition, which so much weakened him, that he never got over it. He was called at the Sessions there, fined 20*l.* and sent back to Prison; where he remained close confined till another Sessions at *Ipswich*, when he was called into Court, and nothing said of the Fine; but the Clerk of the Court told him, they had a particular Order from the King to deal with him, and so tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing it remanded him to Prison, where he grew weaker and weaker, till he died on the 23d of the Month called *June* in the next Year. He laid down his Life about the fiftieth Year of his Age, being an innocent and faithful Man, of good Report among his Neighbours, and left a sweet Savour behind him.

His Trial.

The Jury's
Verdict re-
jected and
alter'd.Hardships
occasioning
his Death.His Death and
Character.Imprisonments
for Meeting.

On the 18th of September, *Jonathan Haddock*, *John Spurling*, *Joseph Clarke*, *Thomas Simons*, *William Rowland*, and *Thomas Melfup*, having been taken at a religious Meeting, were, by Order of Sessions, committed to *Ipswich Goal*: As were for the same Cause, on the 6th of the Month called *January*, *Esther Rowland*, *Mary Rose*, *Mary Grimble*, and *Sarah Clark*: And on the 28th of the same Month, *Edward Melfup*, *Alice Melfup*, *Sarah Church*, *Mary Cock*, *Samuel Swann*, and *Anne Goddard*.

About

About the same Time *Thomas Fowler*, *George Cole*, and *William Pitchers*, were imprisoned in the County Goal for Absence from the National Worship.

For Fines for being at *Woodbridge Meeting*, was taken

From *Peter Smith*, of *Melton*, an Horse worth

Nathanael Keeble, a Cow worth

Matthew Skinner, Goods worth

l. s. d.

1 15 0

1 15 0

2 18 0

6 8 0

SUFFOLK
1683.

Imprisonments
for Absence
from the
National
Worship, and
Distresses for
Meeting.

Prisoners for
Tithes.

Proceedings
at Sessions.

ANNO 1684. In the Month called *April*, *William Swaites* and *Joshua Bangs* were Prisoners in this County for Tithes: In the next Month *Francis Lemon* was a Prisoner at *Ipswich* for Tithe, having continued in that State above four Years: Also *Samuel Freeman*, *William Fiddeman*, and *George Deane*, who had been there confined, on Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*, about six Years.

At the Sessions, held at *Edmundsbury* on the 14th of the Month called *April*, *Samuel Cooper*, *James Greenwood*, *William Greenwood*, *Henry Parker*, *Sarah*, Wife of *John Bennett*, *Jane Woods*, *Hannah Woods*, *John Boreham*, *Anne Sewel*, *Henry Collins*, *Daniel Groom*, *Benjamin Dowman*, and *Edward Hawkins*, Prisoners, who had been committed without Bail or Mainprize for refusing the Oath of Allegiance, were brought into Court, and most of them refusing to plead to an Indictment drawn up against them, one of the Justices, named *Hull*, urged the Bench to pass Sentence of *Premunire* upon them, but the other Justices, being more moderate, gave them farther Time till the next Sessions, yet continued them in Prison, where the Goaler kept them close confined, having been threatened by Justice *Hull* for letting some of them have a little Liberty: Whereupon they drew up the following Petition

“To the KING,

“The Humble Petition of eighteen Persons, commonly called QUAKERS,
“Prisoners in Bury Goal in Suffolk,

“SHEWETH,

“THAT we the aforesaid Prisoners were first committed to this Prison
“by Justice *Hull*, near eight Months ago, for peaceably meeting to-
“gether to worship God according to our Persuasions; and at Quarter
“Sessions following he caused all to be Indicted upon the Act of 13 and 14
“Car. 2. and moreover at the same Sessions, caused the Oath of Allegiance to
“be tendred to thirteen of us, and at Sessions following preferred Indictments
“thereupon with a second Tender of the Oath, pursuing hard to have the
“Sentence of *Premunire* past upon us, only because for Conscience-sake we
“cannot Swear, and not for any Disaffection to the King and Government,
“and caused other five of the said eighteen of us to be indicted for two
“Months Absence from the Church, and detained Prisoners thereupon, tending
“to the Ruin of us, our Wives, and Families; which we believe is not the
“Desire of the King, of whose Favour and Clemency we have had better Expe-
“rience, nor of our Neighbouring Magistrates in this County, who have seen our
“peaceable Lives and Conversations among them, but of the aforesaid *Joseph*
“*Hull*, who hath caused Men and their Wives to be shut up together in Pri-
“son, Parents and Masters from their Children and Servants, Husbands from
“their Wives, tender Children and Families, most of us poor and in a mean
“Capacity, some who might of their honest Labour have provided for them-
“selves and Families, are already reduced to Want by Imprisonment.

“We therefore the said Petitioners do humbly intreat, that the King will

“be pleased to grant us our Liberty to take Care to follow our honest

“Vocations, before we and our Families are utterly ruined.

“And we the Petitioners, as in Duty bound, &c.”

On

Petition to the
King.

SUFFOLK.

1684.

Prisoners for
several Causes.Commitments
to Melton
Goal.Prosecutions
at Sessions.

On the 19th of the Month called May, William Stiles, Richard Ellgood, John Brooks, Edward Lea, Thomas Bayley, John Edwards, Henry Clow, and Elizabeth his Wife, John Elsdan, and John Browes, were Prisoners in the County Goal at Ipswich, upon Processess for not going to Church: Also Peter Cross, Thomas Mann, Samuel Leggett, William Peart, Thomas King, Richard Burton, William Page, Clement Carter, Robert Johnson, Samuel Kimble, and John Laurence, were confined in the same Prison for going to Meetings, and refusing to Swear.

On the 25th of the same Month, Edmund Jenny, a Justice of the Peace, attended with the Constables of Woodbridge, came to the Meeting there, and took from thence Robert Brightwell, John Shooter, and Nathanael Keeble, and committed them to Melton Goal.

At the forementioned Sessions, held at Edmundsbury on the 10th of the Month called April, Joseph Riddledale, Joseph Chisnall, John Bennett, and Ambrose Sewel, Prisoners for Absence from the National Worship, were indicted, and refusing to plead, were continued in Prison. And at the same Sessions Samuel Folks was fined 40*l.* for two Months Absence from Church, and ordered to remain in Prison till Payment. He was shortly after returned into the Exchequer for this and other Fines on the like Account, amounting in all to 680*l.* and Process was issued out of that Court for the Sheriff to levy the same: For the same Causes also, Henry Parker, and his Wife, John Folkes, Elizabeth Hives, and Anne Laws, were continued under Confinement.

At the Assizes, which began at Edmundsbury on the 10th of the Month called July, the same eighteen Prisoners who had petitioned the King, as above related, presented their Case to the Judge, viz.

“ *The CASE of diverse Persons called QUAKERS, Prisoners in Bury*
“ *Goal, humbly presented to the Christian Consideration of Judge*
“ *MONTAGUE, the 12th of the Fifth Month 1684.*

Case of eigh-
teen Prisoners,
presented to
the Judge of
Assize.

“ **H** E R E is now in this Prison eighteen of us, who were committed
“ near ten Months ago, for being peaceably met together to worship
“ God according to our Persuasions, and indicted for the same upon the Statute
“ of 13 and 14 of this King, and since that, the Oath of Allegiance was
“ tendred to thirteen of us, twelve whereof were indicted upon *Premunire*, and
“ the rest of us indicted for two Months Absence, &c. one whereof fined 40*l.*
“ and to lie in Prison till Payment; the others continued upon the said In-
“ dictments, which we need not enlarge upon, it plainly appearing by the
“ Calendar, being also not unknown to the Magistrates in this Part of the
“ County, whose Moderation we do acknowledge, since we have appeared
“ before them, to be such, as that, we believe, they did not desire our utter
“ Ruin. And we desire of God, who is Love, and from whom all Good
“ comes, still to incline the Hearts, and augment the Pity and Compassion of
“ those in Authority towards us; for indeed our Condition is very sad and
“ lamentable, Man and Wife shut up together in Prison, all taken from Oc-
“ casions and Employments; Parents and Masters from their Wives, Children,
“ and Families, some whereof have been great Sufferers formerly.
“ And this we can say, and that truly, that several aged People among us
“ are already exposed to Ruin, as to the Things of this World, by this their
“ long and close Imprisonment, who before of themselves did, with God’s
“ Blessing, and their honest Endeavours, get a comfortable Livelihood in their
“ several Employments, and might have done so still: Others there are, if
“ still continued, like to be dispossessed of House and Home, and what they
“ have seized upon by the Land-Owners, the Farms going to Ruin, Loss and
“ Spoil, for want of the Farmers; several Instances we could give, which
“ would be too tedious now to mention.

“ Before last Sessions some few of our Friends, upon urgent Occasions,
“ obtained a little Liberty to go to their own Homes, as in particular one who

“ was

“ was Overseer of the Parish where he lived : Another, whose Wife died, &c. SUFFOLK.
 “ However, Justice *Hull*, as is supposed, receiving Intelligence that some 1684.
 “ Liberty was given, which indeed was but to a few, took Occasion so to
 “ threaten the Goaler, that since the last Sessions not one Person of us,
 “ how urgent soever Occasions were, could get Leave to go to our own
 “ Homes ; yet Word was brought to one Man, that his Wife lay weak, like
 “ to die, and desired to see him, which could not be obtained, so close hath
 “ our Confinement been since last Sessions.
 “ What Cause have we ever given to be thus hardly dealt withal ? God (we
 “ beseech him) clear our Innocency in this Matter ! Hath not our Conversation
 “ been peaceable towards the Government and our Neighbours ? And God,
 “ who knows the Secrets of all Hearts, knows that we have no other
 “ Intent than to live peaceably under the Government, and that we do not
 “ refuse to take the said Oath out of Wilfulness, Stubbornness, and Contempt,
 “ but only for Conscience-sake, in Obedience to the Command of Christ.

“ Having thus stated our Case truly as it is, we intreat thee to yield us
 “ some Relief from these our hard Bonds and Imprisonments, that we
 “ and our Families may not be wholly exposed to Ruin.”

A few Days before the said Affizes, *Thomas Kemp*, *Jonatban Crismas*, and
Thomas Clark, all of *Sudbury*, were fetcht out of their own Houses by the
 Constables of the Town, by Warrant from *Joseph Hull*, *Thomas Waldegrave*,
 and *John Cordwell*, Justices, then sitting at the Sign of the Crown in *Sudbury*,
 who tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing to Swear, com-
 mitted them to Prison ; where *Thomas Kemp* died on the 26th of the Month
 called *March* following.

The following Account is extracted from a Letter writ by *Joshua Bangs*,
 a Prisoner at *Edmundsbury* for Tithes, viz.

“ A Few Days before the Affizes at *Edmundsbury*, which began the 10th
 “ of the Fifth Month 1684, *Roger Thompson*, employed by *James*
 “ *English*, Bayliff of *Lackford Hundred*, and another Person with him, took
 “ two who were called *Quakers*, at *Mildenhall*, upon an Affize Procefs. One
 “ of the two they took with his Horse and Cart, near a Mile from his then
 “ Residence, who was without his Hat, being also then in Apparel about his
 “ Occasions ; yet the said *Roger Thompson* would not permit him to go Home,
 “ and get his Hat and Clothes, before he went to Prison, nor give him so
 “ much Time as to unyoke his Horses, but forced him away, leaving the said
 “ Horses in a Cart in the Yard, where they, after the Prisoner was gone,
 “ forced into a Garden-place, and destroyed Beans, and what grew there, be-
 “ sides what they could eat, to the Damage of the Owner. The other they
 “ took away from his Grass-mowing, not so much as suffering him to call at
 “ his own House, notwithstanding it fell in Course for him to go not far from
 “ thence in his Way toward Prison. Note also, that those two Persons who
 “ were thus posted from their Employments, took Occasion to alight off their
 “ Horses at a certain Place where the Bayliffs call'd to take another upon
 “ Affize Procefs, but because the said two Prisoners made not so much Haste
 “ on Horseback again as the Bayliffs would have them, they got a Line about
 “ one, and dragg'd him upon the Ground several Rods : Nor did the other
 “ Person escape the Rage and Cruelty of *Roger Thompson*, who struck him,
 “ and farther said, *If he kill'd him, he should not be hang'd for him, because he*
 “ *was an excommunicated Person*. So they were had to Prison that Night,
 “ about eleven Miles from the Place where they were taken to *Bury Prison*,
 “ to which they were committed.

“ But when these two Persons from *Mildenhall* aforesaid, with two others
 “ which were brought upon Affize Procefs from *Ipswich County Goal*, namely,
 “ *John Brews* and *William Greenwood*, came before *William Montague*, who

Death of
T. Kemp.

A Letter from
a Prisoner at
Edmunds-
bury.

SUFFOLK. "that Affize sat Judge at the Crown Bar; he discharged them all of their
1684. "Imprisonment, saying, *Their Goods should be distrained for their Fines, which*
"were 3 s. each Person for three Weeks Absence, &c."

Death of
J. Chisnall.

On the 24th of the Month called July, Joseph Chisnall, Prisoner as aforesaid, for Absence from the National Worship, died in Bury Goal, where he laid down his Head in Peace, calling upon the Lord a little before his Departure.

Prosecution of
the Aged and
of the Blind.

About this Time Mary Cleveland, Anne Goddard, Jane Newbam, Mary Cooke, and Mary Grimble, were taken at a Meeting in Ipswich by Constables and an Informer, who carried them before John Burrough, Bayliff of the Town, and he committed them all to Prison, though the very Sight of them might have been a reasonable Motive to Compassion, for the said Mary Grimble and Anne Goddard were either of them near eighty Years of Age, and the said Mary Cleveland was of like Age, and quite blind, so that she was led between two Men to the Bayliff's House. Certainly this Magistrate was over officious in this Case, for he could not justly apprehend any real Danger to the Government from an Assembly of such Persons.

Proceedings
at Edmunds-
bury Sessions.

At Edmundsbury Sessions in this Month, Justice Hull again urged the Court to pass Sentence of *Premunire* upon the Quakers who had appeared at the former Sessions, but the other Justices refused, and ordered the Clerk to draw up their Case in order to be laid before the King and Council, and so protracted the passing Sentence till another Sessions.

Commitment
on Suspicion.

On the 5th of September, Edmund Jenney, Justice, came again to the Meeting-house at Woodbridge, after the Meeting was concluded: But the Justice observing Jonathan Seaman walking in the Lane from the Meeting-house, sent him to Melton Goal, on a Presumption of his having been at the said Meeting.

Sentence of
Premunire.

At the Quarter Sessions on the 13th of October, the aforesaid Justice Hull, being Chairman, passed Sentence of *Premunire* upon Samuel Cooper, James Greenwood, Henry Packer, Jane Wood, Hannah Wood, Anne Sewel, Henry Collins, Daniel Groom, and Benjamin Dowman: Under which hard Sentence they were remanded to Prison.

On the 19th of November, the following Petition was presented to the King at Newmarket by Anne Groom, viz.

"To the KING,

"The Humble Petition of SUSANNA COOPER and ANNE GROOM,
"of Suffolk.

"SHEWETH,

Susan Cooper's & Anne Groom's Petition to the King.

"THAT we have lately presented a Petition to the King at Newmarket, in Behalf of our Husbands Samuel Cooper and Daniel Groom, with eight innocent Persons more, who after long Imprisonment for their tender Consciences, are sentenced to a *Premunire*; the one whereof employing at least two Hundred poor People in the Woolen Manufactory, when at Liberty: And it being only in the King's Power to relieve them, and set them at Liberty.

"We therefore the Petitioners humbly pray, and wait to know the King's Pleasure concerning our said Husbands, &c. We being come on purpose out of Suffolk to seek Relief.

"And we the Petitioners do, as in Duty bound, pray, &c."

Commitments
on the Statute
of 20 l. per
Month, &c.

Israel Roberts, Edward Hart, Stephen Carter, Stephen Levitt, and John Rivett, taken on Sessions Process, were indicted for three Months Absence from the Church, on the Statute for 20 l. per Month, and had also the Oath of Allegiance tendered them at Sessions, and for refusing to Swear, were committed to

I "close

close Prison : Also *Thomas Humpfrey*, of *Clare*, was taken by Constables but his Shop, and carried to the Sessions, where the Oath of Allegiance was tendered him, and he, for refusing to take it, was sent to Prison.

SUFFOLK
1684.

On the 22d of the Month called *February*, *Margaret Greenwood*, *Elizabeth Gossing*, *Mary Vincent*, *Elizabeth Story*, *Hannah Pinborrow*, and *Ruth Gossing*, taken at a Meeting in *Ipswich* by Constables and an Informer, were committed to Prison by *William Neave*, Bayliff of that Town. And a few Days after, the same Informer came with a Warrant, and apprehended *Sarah Clark*, of *Ipswich*, for being at the same Meeting, and carried her before a Justice of the Peace, who sent her to Prison.

Imprisonment
for Meetings
at Ipswich.

ANNO 1685. This Year commences with the Commitment of *Mary Port* and *Jane Laurence* to *Ipswich Goal*, and of *Katharine Brightwell*, *Marika Bourne*, *Elizabeth Pasford*, *John Brightwell*, and *Andrew Freeman*, to *Melton Goal*, by *Edward Jenney*, Justice, who attended by *Josaph Cooper*, Constable of *Woodbridge*, had taken them at a Meeting there.

On the 19th of the Month called *April*, at *Woodbridge Quarter Sessions*, those imprisoned at *Melton*, were fined, and recommitted to Prison.

Fines and
Recommitt-
ments.

On the 2d of the Month called *May*, at the County Sessions in *Ipswich*, those in the County Goal were called, and refusing to give Sureties for the good Behaviour, generally remanded to Prison.

On the 5th and 6th of the same Month, at the Sessions for the Town of *Ipswich*, the Friends in the Town Prison were brought forth, and some who lay for small Fines were set at Liberty, their Neighbours paying for them : but *Edward Melsup*, *John Spurling*, *Thomas Melsup*, *Anne Goddard*, *Sarah Clarke*, *Mary Rose*, *Mary Cox*, *Alice Melsup*, *Elizabeth Gossing*, *Margaret Greenwood*, *Elizabeth Story*, *Mary Vincent*, * *Ruth Gossing*, and *Hannah Pinborrow*, were required to find Sureties for the Good Behaviour, and for not doing it, were returned to Prison, the Justices giving the Goaler a strict Charge to keep them very close.

Proceedings
at Ipswich
Sessions.

On the 10th of the same Month, *Edward Jenney*, Justice, with the Constables of *Woodbridge*, came again to the Meeting there, and the Justice caused a *Mittimus* to be made for the Commitment of *Sarah Bennett*, *Elizabeth Piggott*, *Deborah Shutter*, *Susan Partridge*, and *William Bedford*, to *Melton Goal*.

Imprisonment
for Meetings.

The Number of Prisoners remaining in the several Prisons in this County, on the 29th of the Month called *May* 1685, were

In *EDMUNDSBURY Goal*, Under Sentence of *Premunure*, for refusing to Swear, thirteen : And on an Indictment for Absence from the publick Worship, four.

Number of
Prisoners.

In *IPSWICH County Goal*, For not paying Tithes, four : And by Process at Sessions and Affizes, for Absence from the National Worship, twenty seven.

In *IPSWICH Town Goal*, For meeting together to worship God, thirteen.

In *MELTON Prison*, For meeting together to worship God, nine.

In *SUDBURY Goal*, For Absence from the National Worship, and for refusing to Swear, eight.

In all seventy eight.

After which Time we have no Account concerning them. It is probable they were generally set at Liberty at the Summer Affizes that Year, according to the Proclamation of King *James the Second*, bearing Date the 8th Day of *April* 1685.

There were in the Month called *May* this Year, Processes out of the *Exchequer* against the People called *Quakers* in this County, for Monthly Absence from their Parish-Churches, so called, to the Amount of 33300^l. The making Distresses for which, and the Ruin of many Families thereby, was also prevented by Means of the aforesaid Proclamation.

Fines remit-
ted.

C H A P.

* Note. The said *Ruth Gossing* being very sick in Prison, the Magistrates, on Application to them, ordered her Discharge.

SURREY.

1656.

C H A P. XXXII.

S U R R Y.

ANNO 1656.

Several Imprisonments.

EDWARD BURROUGHS, and nine others of this People, were imprisoned at Kingston for refusing to take the Oath of Abjuration: And in the same Year, *Edward Cole*, *Richard Greenway*, *Thomas Fitzwilliams*, and *Ruth White*, for their zealous Opposition to the Priests of Kingston, respecting some Points of Religion, were severally imprisoned there.

Distresses for Tithes, and for

ANNO 1657. On the 4th of the Month called May, *Thomas Lacock* was taken out of a Meeting in *Roger Rumsford's* House in *Pitfield*, and carried before a Justice, who committed him to Prison, where he was about half a Year. In the same Year several of this People in this County, for Demands of Tithes amounting to 12*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* had Goods taken from them to the Value of 20*l.* 17*s.*

Steeple-house Rates.

ANNO 1658. For several Demands made on this People for Tithes of the Value of 14*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* they suffered Distresses of their Goods to the Amount of 53*l.* 17*s.* And in the same Year, for refusing to pay toward the Repairing of the Parochial Places for Worship, for Claims of 1*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* Goods were taken from them to the Value of 3*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

Prosecutions for Tithes.

ANNO 1659. *Henry Gill*, for one Year's Tithes, amounting at most but to 8*l.* was arrested by the Priest of *Godalmin*, and cast into Prison, where he lay nine Months, and afterwards had taken from him by an Attachment, Goods and Chattels worth 40*l.* and under Pretence of that being too little, they nail'd up his Barn-door, wherein was Corn worth 40*l.* more. In this Year also, *Richard Bax* and *Thomas Bax*, of *Capel*, were imprisoned for Tithes five or six Weeks, and after their Discharge had their Goods taken by Distress for the same Demands. Diverse others of this People, for Demands of 16*l.* 5*s.* for Tithes, had Goods taken from them worth 61*l.* 12*s.*

A Dispute between the Priest of Kingston and E. Burroughs.

There happened some Time before this, a remarkable Dispute between *Richard Mayo*, Priest of Kingston, and *Edward Burroughs*: The Priest conferring with *Edward*, had several Times challenged him to come to the Place of publick Worship there, and if he had any Thing against him or his Doctrine, to speak his Mind freely. Accordingly *Edward* went, and *Mayo* in his Hearing, did in his preaching lay down several Positions, viz.

1. That the Apostle Paul, as a Minister of Christ, exhorted the Corinthians to follow and obey a Light, which was not Christ, nor the Light of the Gospel.
2. That People ought to follow and obey a Light, which was not Christ, nor the Light of the Gospel.
3. That a Man may be a righteous Man, and not a godly Man, without Distinction.
4. That the Light of Christ, which every Man is lightened with, John i. 9. is carnal and Darkness.
5. That Christ was not the Word that David walked by.

These Positions *Edward* opposed as damnable Doctrines, and not according to Truth. The Priest, unable to support them, had Recourse to his strongest Argument, viz. the Law. He entred an Action against *Edward*, upon which he was arrested and cast into Prison: About a Year after, the Cause came to an Hearing in Kingston Court, where it was proved by sufficient Evidence, that

the Priest had laid down those Positions, and *Edward* offered to prove by Scripture, that they were damnable and erroneous, but the Court refused to hear him: The Jury were directed to give the Priest Damages, and they accordingly gave him 100*l*. But when at a subsequent Court the Priest's Council mov'd for Judgment upon that Verdict, *Burroughs* being admitted to speak, so manifestly proved the Truth of his Charge, and the Priest so lamely vindicated his Assertions, that the Court did not proceed to Judgment in the Cause, but deferr'd it; and we do not find that the Priest made any farther Motion afterward about it, but having put himself to much Trouble and Charge, sat down with the Disgrace which his incautious Rashness had procured him.

SURRY.
1659.

Thomas Tax, of *Charlewood*, for his Opposition to the Priest of that Place, was by his Means sent to Prison, and continued by the Justices from one Quarter Sessions to another, without any Trial or legal Process against him. For the like Cause *Esther Biddle*, and some others at *Godalmin*, were much beaten and abused, and put into the Cage there: And the aforesaid *Thomas Tax*, for coming into the Place of publick Worship at *Charlewood*, where he sat still and spake not a Word, was by the Priest's Order haled out, and set in the Stocks. At *Guilford*, *Edward Eastmead*, for opposing the Priest there, was imprisoned till Sessions, and then sent to the House of Correction for one Month. Also *Ellen Hartley*, being religiously concerned to exhort the People assembled at their publick Worship in the Parish of *Mary Magdalen Bermondsey* in *Southwark*, was grievously abused for her *Christian* Labour bestowed on them.

Sundry Imprisonments, and other Abuses.

On the 3d of the Month called *July*, as several of the People called *Quakers* were going to a Meeting at *Mitcham*, they were stop't by a Constable, who struck one of them on the Breast, saying, *Such Rogues as you shall not pass, except you will go to Church*; however, they went on, he threatening, that they should be pulled out by and by: When they had been a while in the Meeting, many People gathered about the Door, and one holding up a long Staff with both Hands, spake to the Preacher thus, *If you speak another Word, I will knock you down, though I be hang'd for it*: The rest followed that Signal, and threw down many of the Friends, kicking and trampling on them; after which they dragged them out one by one upon the Common, and tore many of their Clothes. *Edward Stamp*, of *Southwark*, being askt by some of them, *What he came thither for*? answered, *To wait upon the Lord*: Upon that they called him *Jesuit Rogue*, and threatned to kill him, and so fell upon him and beat him very sorely: They thrust another into a Pond, and as he attempted to come out, forced him back again: At length, with their Staves they pught and drove them along, till one of the Neighbours received them into his Yard: There the Meeting continued, and as one of the Friends was preaching, they threw a Pail full of muddy Water upon him: And as the Assembly stood bare-headed at Prayer, they threw Stones and broke the Head of one of them, and much hurt others, and after the Meeting pursued them a great Way, stoning them.

Grievous Abuses at Mitcham Meeting.

On the 7th of the same Month, at the same Place, the Rabble assaulted those that met, and threw Dirt and Dung at them, even in the Faces and Mouths of those who preached. The like Wickedness they repeated on the 10th of the same Month, when after they had daubed some of the Friends all over with Dirt and Filth, they cried out, *How like Witches they look*? And then renewed their ungodly Insults and Abuses in a most barbarous Manner. The patient Sufferers endured all with *Christian* Meekness and Constancy, nor could the Rage of Men prevent their Performance of their *Christian* Duty of assembling together to worship the Lord their God in Spirit and in Truth. The Names of some of those who were Sharers of the manifold Abuses at those Meetings in *Mitcham*, were, *William Shewen*, *Francis Collins*, *Richard Greenway*, *Elizabeth Wheelwright*, *Rebecca Travers*, *Deborah Harding*, *Sarah Bates*, *Elizabeth Watson*, *Gratian Bacon*, *Peter Burdett*, *Charles Osier*, *William*

Patience of the Sufferers.

Names of some of them.

SURRY.
1660.

32 Imprisoned.

Death of
of Thomas
Patchen in
Prison.

Abuses from
the Felons and
others.

38 Others sent
to Prison.

80 Others im-
prisoned.

7 Died in
Prison.

Form of In-
dictment.

Brown, Thomas Maynard, John Oakley, Thomas Crook, John Giles, Anne Cart, Richard Bird, Richard Tidder, Margaret Davis, William Hill, Henry Ayres, Anne Hayworth, Richard Whippain, and Edward Stamp.

ANNO 1660. In the Month called January, William Woods, Richard Deane, John Lee, Henry Coppis, Thomas Thompson, Humphry Kirk, Caleb Woods, William Hampton, Jacob Benbrick, Thomas Butterfield, John Thane, Robert Mildred, Thomas Patchen, Thomas Passenger, Henry Gill, Peter Woodger, Henry Batchelor, Arthur Cockerill, Stephen Weeks, Walter Simonds, John Barnard, Thomas Seaman, Edward Steele, John Stent, James Snelling, Robert Stedman, Robert Clinton, Henry Chandler, George Hogslesh, Edward Cole, John Biddle, and William Morris, who had been taken, some from their own Houses, some out of their Beds, others from their lawful Employments, and many from their religious Assemblies, were brought from Guilford, and committed to the White-Lion Prison in Southwark: One of them, namely, Thomas Patchen, a Man of a considerable Estate, was taken, when sick, and hurried away twenty five Miles to Prison, where he was, with the rest, put among the Felons, who abused him sorely, and would have stript him of his Clothes, to the endangering of his Life, had he not consented to let them have 3 l. 5 s. in Money, which the Goaler awarded them; notwithstanding which, they afterward took from him two Coats worth 2 l. 10 s. The Fatigue of his Journey, and the cruel Usage he met with in the Goal, so increased his Distemper, that he died there a few Days after his Commitment. The Felons also rifled the other Prisoners, taking from some their Money, from others their Clothes and Necessaries. About the same Time Samuel Thornton, William Hart, William Newman, Walter Simons, Matthew Turner, Stephen Cooke, Richard Bird, John Toskill, Richard Brown, Edward Cole, Richard Chennell, William Hampshire, Isaac Jordan, Andrew Belford, John Potter, John Dowden, Joseph Parker, Christopher Reading, George Johnson, William Powell, John Damsell, John Bignall, Richard Galton, John Hampshire, John Tarlton, Robert Harle, Thomas Green, John Matthews, Thomas Guest, George Shepherd, George Prior, Thomas Berkles, William Garner, George Clark, William Morris, William Liskfield, John Bennet, and Joseph Biddle, were taken up in and about Southwark, and committed to the same Prison, where they also were put among the Felons, who extorted and plundered from them and the others before named, in Goods and Money to the Value of 28 l. 1 s. 9 d.

ANNO 1662. In this Year about eighty Persons, taken at several Times from the Meeting at Horslydown in Southwark, were committed to Prison, who most of them lay full three Months, being so thronged, and close shut up in unhealthy Places, that many of them were taken sick, and seven died, viz. Thomas Berkles, Henry Bromley, John Whitlock, William Snowek, John Dison, John Wolstenholm, and Richard Page; of whom the former four died in November, and the three latter in December. In the same Year John Birkett, Richard Cowles, and James Medgricks, taken at Escher Meeting, and Thomas Carter, apprehended by a Sessions Process, were also committed to Prison for frequenting religious Assemblies.

At a Sessions, held at Margaret's-Hill in Southwark, on the 30th of October, thirty two of the aforesaid Prisoners were tried on an Indictment in Form following, viz.

“ Surry fs.

“ THE Jurors for our Lord the King do present upon their Oath,
“ that Arthur Fisher, late of the Parish of St. Olaves in the Borough
“ of Southwark in the County of Surry, Yeoman; Nathanael Robinson of the
“ same, Yeoman; John Chandler of the same, Yeoman; and others; being
“ wicked, dangerous, and seditious Sectaries, and disloyal Persons, and above
“ the Age of sixteen Years, on the 29th Day of June, in the Year of our
“ Lord Charles the Second, by the Grace of God King of England, Scotland,
“ France,

" *France, and Ireland, the fourteenth, have obstinately refused, and every one*
 " *of them hath obstinately refused to repair unto some Church, Chapel, or*
 " *usual Place of Common-Prayer, according to the Laws and Statutes of*
 " *this Kingdom of England in the like Case set forth and provided, after*
 " *forty Days next after the End of the Sessions of Parliament, begun and*
 " *holden at Westminster on the 19th Day of February, in the Year of the*
 " *Reign of our Lady Elizabeth, late Queen of England the thirty fifth, and*
 " *there continued until the Dissolution of the same, being the 10th Day of*
 " *April, in the thirty fifth Year aforesaid, to wit, on the 3d Day of August,*
 " *in the Year of the Reign of the said Charles, King of England the fourteenth*
 " *aforesaid, in the Parish of St. Olaves aforesaid, in the Borough aforesaid,*
 " *of themselves did voluntarily and unlawfully join in, and were present at*
 " *an unlawful Assembly, Conventicle, and Meeting, at the said Parish of St.*
 " *Olaves aforesaid, in the Borough of Southwark aforesaid, in the County*
 " *aforesaid, under Colour and Pretence of the Exercise of Religion, against*
 " *the Laws and Statutes of this Kingdom of England, in Contempt of our*
 " *said Lord the King that now is, his Crown and Dignity, and contrary to*
 " *the Form of the Statute in this same Case set forth and provided."*

SURRY.
1662.

To this Indictment twenty two of the Persons concerned pleaded *Not Guilty*, but the other ten not presently answering, were violently haled out of the Court again to Prison: Upon Trial, the Jury overawed by the Authority of the Bench, brought all those twenty two in *Guilty*, and they received the following Sentence, *viz. That they should return to Prison, and there continue three Months without Bail or Mainprize; after which Time if they recanted not, they must abjure the Realm, or be proceeded against as Felons.*

Sentence of
Abjuration
passed on 22 of
the Prisoners.

At a Sessions at the same Place, on the 11th of November, thirteen more of the Prisoners were brought to the Bar, and indicted as before, five of them pleading *Not Guilty* were tried, convicted, and sentenced as the former; the other eight, seeing the Court so partial that a fair Hearing could not be expected, refused to plead, and were also sent back to Prison.

13 More in-
dicted.

It was observed, that the Justices chose to indict the Prisoners on the Act of Queen Elizabeth, with a Design against their Lives; for after Sentence was pronounced, by which they were required to abjure the Realm, one of the Justices repeating that Part of the Sentence, scoffingly said to the Prisoners, *And you can't Swear at all*; thence inferring, that they must of Necessity incur the Penalties of Felony.

Design of the
Justices.

ANNO 1663. On the 9th of the Month called August, the First of the Week, a Company of Soldiers, headed by a Serjeant, came to the Meeting at *Horslydown*, and as they entered, fired their Muskets; then they fell to beating and abusing those that were met, and drove many of them by Violence to their Guard. Thus they proceeded for several Meetings successively, knocking down many with their Muskets, sorely bruising them, and cutting others over the Heads and Faces with their naked Swords, some of them having their Muskets charged with Powder, held the Muzzles close to the Women, and firing them, burnt their Clothes and scorched their Bodies; others brake their Swords and Staves with the Blows which they inhumanly laid on without Distinction, either of Age or Sex, for even the Women with Children were not exempted from their Cruelties. This kind of Barbarity was exercised for near a Month together by Part of that called the *King's Regiment*, and afterwards by a Party of General *Monk's* own Regiment, nothing inferior to the others in Cruelty.

Violent Abuses
at Horsly-
down Meet-
ing.

About the End of this Summer, *Samuel Fisher, Joseph Fuce, George Brigstock, and Thomas Moore*, were taken together in a Meeting at *Charlewood*, and committed to the *White-Lion* Prison in *Southwark*, where they lay till two of them, *viz. Samuel Fisher and Joseph Fuce*, died, of whose Death and Characters a farther Account will be given in the Year 1665.

Imprisonments
for Meeting.

ANNO 1664. On the 3d of the Month called July, *George Whitehead* preaching in the Meeting at *Horslydown*, was taken thence by a Party of Soldiers with

SURRY.
1664.

Imprisonment
of G. White-
head and
others.

Their Mitti-
mus.

Hard Confine-
ment.

Many sent to
Prison from
Meetings at
Horshlydown.

with Muskets and lighted Matches: One of them, as they entred, fired a Musket. They carried George, and several others, to their main Guard at Margaret's-Hill, whither came some Justices of the Peace, who after Examination, fined them 5^l. each, and on their Refusal to pay it, committed them to Prison by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

“ Surry *js*.

“ To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal for the County aforesaid.

“ FORASMUCH as George Whitehead, George Pattison, Joseph Dimf-
dale, Gilbert Hutton, George Rawlins, Edward Pattison, and Timothy
England, were this present Day taken at a seditious Assembly or Conventicle,
and are convict of the same before us, wherefore according to the Act we
have fined them five Pounds a piece, which they do refuse to pay down
unto us.

“ Therefore, in his Majesty's Name, we command you to receive their
Bodies into your said Goal, and them safely keep without Bail or Mainprize
for the Space of three Months from this present Day: And hereof see that
you in no wise fail, under the Pains and Penalties in the said Act mentioned.
Dated the 3d Day of July 1664.

“ JOHN BROMFIELD,

“ JOHN LENTHALL,

“ GEORGE MOORE.”

Being thus committed to Prison, and when there, unwilling to comply with the Keeper's exorbitant Demands for Lodging, they were thrust in among the Felons, who searched their Pockets, and took away what Money they found from several of them, being therein encouraged by the Keeper. Besides, the Ward itself was such a nasty stinking Hole, and so crouded with Felons and Women that lay among them, that the Friends, having nothing to sit or lie on, were obliged when weary to sit down on the Floor, among the Vermin, near the Place where the Prisoners commonly used to make Water, and which stank grievously of their Urine. Thus they continued that Night, but next Day, on Complaint made to the Justices, the Goaler was ordered to let them have a Room apart from the Felons.

On the 10th of the same Month, many Soldiers, Horse and Foot, came to the Meeting at Horshlydown, and carried about sixty Persons to Margaret's-Hill, of whom the Justices sent twelve to Prison, namely, Thomas Padley, William Hart, John Chandler, Edward Golling, Nathanael Robinson, Thomas Wasse, Arthur Fisher, William Croudson, Matthew Herbert, William Bruiton, Evan Jones, and Thomas Hammond.

On the 11th of September, Richard Gibbs, John Martin, John Cowper, John Claus, Richard Danman, Edward Crisp, John Potter, James Attridge, John Barnard, Walter Simonds, Richard Bray, Samuel Fausket, Job Boulton, Francis Dickenson, James Goodwin, William Greenbill, Henry Daniel, Thomas Eustance, Thomas Norris, and Edmund Curle, were taken from a Meeting at the same Place, and committed to the White-Lion Prison.

On the 19th of the same Month, for being at a Meeting in the same Place the Day before, twenty three Persons were committed to Prison, viz. Charles Jones, Richard Brown, Anne Gould, John Stokes, Martin Grocely, Thomas Waters, John Crane, James Wright, Richard Fowler, Andrew Morrison, William Scullier, Isaac Martin, John Martin, Robert Harle, Edward Biddle, Robert Pate, Thomas Rider, Walter Strangewood, Robert Game, Henry Garnett, John Langly, Benjamin Baker, and Matthew Middleton. Four others, viz. John Dalwin, Isaac Jordan, Thomas Weeks, and Stephen Turner, taken at the same Meeting, were sent to Bridewell.

ANNO

ANNO 1665. On the 9th of the Month called *April*, *Thomas Saltbouse*, *Walter Miers*, and others, were taken at *Kingston Meeting*, and fined by the Justices, which Fines they refused to pay, wherefore *Thomas Saltbouse* was imprisoned in *Kingston Stock-house* one Week, and after that seven Weeks in the *White Lion Prison* in *Southwark*, whither also *Walter Miers* was committed for one Month.

In the same Prison four upright and faithful Men finished their Course, and closed their Testimony by Death this Year; an Account of whom, and of their godly Exit, we find upon Record as follows, viz.

I. SAMUEL FISHER. He was a Man of great Parts and Literature, formerly a Parish Preacher at *Lidd* in *Kent*, but voluntarily relinquished his Benefice of about 400*l.* per Annum, and joined in Society with the People called *Baptists* for some Time. In the Year 1655 he became convinced of the Truth as professed by the People called *Quakers*, and through Obedience thereto became a faithful Minister of the same, and travelled much in the Work and Service of the Lord, not only in *England*, but in other Countries. At *Dunkirk* in *Flanders* he had good Service in testifying against the Idolatry of the Priests and Friars, and in declaring Truth in the *English Garrison* there. He afterwards travelled on Foot over the *Alps* to *Rome*, and bore a faithful Testimony against the *Papists* in that City. After his Return to *England*, in the four last Years of his Life, his Sufferings were very great, for in 1661 he was several Months a Prisoner in the *Gate-house* at *Westminster*: Soon after his Release thence, he was apprehended passing the Streets, and sent to *Wood-street Counter*, and after some Time had to *Guild-hall*, where refusing to take the Oaths, he was committed to *Newgate*, and lay there about twelve Months, and in a short Time after his Discharge, was taken again at *Charlewood*, and sent to Prison in *Southwark*, as is before related, where, after two Years Continuance, he rested from his Labours, in perfect Peace with the Lord, and well beloved both by the Brotherhood and others, for as he excelled in Natural Parts and acquired Abilities, so was he exemplary for his *Christian Humility* and *Condescension*, in Meekness instructing those that opposed him, and incessantly labouring either by Word or Writing to spread and promote the Doctrine of Truth among the Children of Men. He died on the last Day of the Month called *August* 1665.

II. JOSEPH FUCE. He travelled in many Countries in the Work of the Ministry, and had an excellent Gift for the convincing of Gainfayers, being frequently exercised in Disputes with *Independent*, *Baptist*, and other Preachers. A Man of a patient meek Spirit, and very laborious in the Work of the Ministry, whereunto God had called him.

III. JOHN SHIELDS. He was taken out of a Meeting at *Horshydown*, and committed to Prison to the *White Lion* in *Southwark*, where he remained a Prisoner till the Month called *August* 1665, and then finished his Course, a faithful Witness for the Lord and his Truth.

IV. JOHN FOTHERGILL. He was a faithful Minister and Labourer in the Work and Service of the Lord, was taken out of a Meeting of the Lord's People at *Guilford*, and was had before one called a Justice, who committed him to Prison to the *White Lion* in *Southwark*, and being twenty five Miles from *London*, and unwilling to put the Constable to so much Trouble as to guard him to Prison, went by himself, the Constable giving him his *Mittimus*, and after he had remained there some Months in Prison, he fell sick of a *Fever*, and about the Month called *August* 1665, he finished his Course, and was taken out of the many Troubles and Trials that the Righteous suffer in this World, and is now at Rest for evermore.

We leave these faithful Witnesses at Rest from their Labours, and step back in point of Time, to give an Account of Tithes, taken by Distress from some of this People in this County, in this and preceding Years, viz.

SURREY.
1665.

Sundry Imprisonments.

Death of
4 Faithful
Men in Prison.

1. S. Fisher.

2. J. Fuce.

3. J. Shields.

4. J. Fothergill.

SURRY. From Henry Gill, of Godalmin,
1665.

Account of
Tithes taken
in this and
some preced-
ing Years.

Demanded			l.	s.	d.
ANNO 1661,	for 16l.	0s. 0d.	Cattle worth	90	0 0
1664,	for 5	10 0	Goods worth	18	0 0
1665,	for 5	10 0	Goods worth	21	0 0
From George Clark, of Sheer,					
ANNO 1661,	for 0	11 0	Goods worth	3	2 0
1662,	for 0	11 0	An Heifer worth	2	5 0
From Thomas Seaman, of Sheer,					
ANNO 1661,	for 3	10 0	Three Cows worth	12	0 0
1662,	for 3	10 0	Three Cows worth	10	10 0
From James Snelling, of Whurst,					
ANNO 1661,	for 3	12 0	Two Oxen worth	11	0 0
1662,	for 3	12 0	Two Oxen worth	10	5 0
1663,	for 3	12 0	Goods worth	13	10 0
From William Hampshire, of Cranley,					
ANNO 1662,	for 8	5 0	Cattle worth	11	15 0
From John Bicknall, of Seale,					
ANNO 1662,	for 6	0 0	Five Cows worth	18	0 0
From George Bicknall, of Sheer,					
ANNO 1662,	for 0	16 0	A Cow worth	2	15 0
<hr/>			<hr/>		
For	60	19 0	Taken	224	2 0

Distresses for
Tithes.

Besides these, Jane Patchin Widow, whose Husband died in Prison for his Testimony, had Goods taken from her under Pretence of Tithes, to the Value of 36l.

ANNO 1666. The Sums, taken by Distress of Goods for Tithes this Year, from several Persons in this County, were as follows, viz.

More Dis-
tresses for
Tithes.

	Demanded			Value taken			
	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.	
From <i>Henry Gill</i> , of <i>Godalmin</i> , for	5	0	0	15	0	0	
<i>John Mansell</i> , of <i>Warpleston</i> ,	4	0	0	11	0	0	
<i>Richard Baker</i> , of the same,	8	14	0	17	10	0	
<i>John Smith</i> , of the same,	8	10	0	18	0	0	
<i>John Bishop</i> , of <i>Marden</i> ,	4	0	0	24	0	0	
<i>Samuel Green</i> , of <i>Oxted</i> ,	3	4	0	4	10	0	
<i>Richard Bax</i> , of <i>Capel</i> ,	5	0	0	22	10	0	
	<hr/>			<hr/>			
For	38	8	0	Taken	112	10	0

Taken more for Tithes, from the said Richard Bax 47 0 0
And from Thomas Bax, of Capel 14 1 0

Sundry Impri-
sonments.

ANNO 1667. Thomas Siggins was subpoena'd into the Exchequer for Tithes, and afterward for refusing to answer upon Oath, was committed to the County Goal. For the same Cause also, John Perry, William Perry, John Stevens, John Fielder, Richard Haines, and Matthew Humphreys, were committed to Prison about the same Time.

Distresses.

ANNO 1669. Richard Needham, of the Parish of Mary-Overies, for a Demand of 6s. for repairing of the Parish Worship-house, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 18s.

Narrative of
Persecution at
Horslydown
Meeting.

ANNO 1670. In this Year, on the Coming in Force of a new Act against Conventicles, the Meetings at Horslydown were again frequently molested, and the Christian Zeal, Constancy, and Intrepidity, with which the Friends

Friends maintained and continued their Meetings at that Place; being Very observable and exemplary, we shall give a particular Narrative of the Proceedings there for several Months.

SURREY.
1670.

In the Month called May 1670, a Party of Foot Soldiers usually came to the Meeting-house on the First Days of the Week, and by Violence pluckt out those that were met, and kept them out in the Street.

On the 12th of the Month called June, a Captain, with Soldiers and a Constable, came and took Thomas Green, with near forty others, from the Meeting to the Artillery-Ground, and after some Time of Detention there, sent them to the Spur Inn in the Borough, where the Justices took their Names, and fined Thomas Green for Preaching, 20*l.* and the rest 5*s.* each. On the 19th Stephen Crisp was taken at the Meeting, and fined 20*l.* The Women at the same Time were forced out of the Meeting, and many of the Mens Names taken down. One Adam Walker was cruelly beaten by the Soldiers; one of whom with a great Club struck him so on the Head, that the Blood spouted into his Hat, and an Impression was made on his Skull by the Blow, so that it was judged incurable. The same Man soon after, for Fines of 7*l.* 5*s.* imposed for himself and others for their religious Assemblies, had Goods taken from him far above the Amount of those Fines, and nothing returned him.

In the Month called July, they were generally kept out of the Meeting-house by Soldiers, from whom, when they were met near the Door in the Street, they received many Blows and other Abuses. And in the same Month was issued

“An Order of the King and Council for demolishing the Meeting-house at Horshydown in Southwark.”

“At the Court at Whitehall, the 29th of July 1670.”

P R E S E N T,

“The KING's Most Excellent Majesty,

“His Highness Prince Rupert

“Lord Archbishop of Canterbury

“Lord Keeper

“Duke of Monmouth

“Duke of Ormond

“Earl of Ossery

“Earl of Oxford

Earl of Anglesey

Earl of Bath

Earl of Craven

Lord Ashley

Mr. Treasurer

Mr. Vice-Chamberlain

Mr. Secretary Trevor.

“HIS Majesty being informed that there have been of late frequent Conventicles and seditious Meetings, under Pretence of religious Worship, contrary to and in Contempt of the Laws established, at an House or Building at Horshydown adjoining to the Artillery-Garden, and that the Persons who there assemble, behave themselves in such riotous and tumultuous Manner, that if their Meetings be any longer endured, his Majesty's Peace, and the Quiet of his Government, will thereby be manifestly endangered: For Prevention whereof, it was this Day ordered, his Majesty present in Council, and by his expresse Command, that Christopher Wrenn Esq; Surveyor-General of his Majesty's Works, do cause the said House or Building to be pulled down and demolished, in Case from henceforth any Persons whatsoever shall presume to meet or hold any Conventicle or unlawful Assembly therein under Colour of religious Worship: And it was farther ordered by his Majesty, that this Signification of his Royal Pleasure be affixed on the said Building, to the End that the Owners and Occupiers of the same may take Notice thereof, to prevent and hinder such Meetings at their Peril.

Order of King
and Council.

“JOHN NICHOLAS.”

On

SURRY.
1670.

Narrative of
farther Perse-
cution at Hor-
slydown.

On the 7th of the Month called *August*, a Serjeant with Soldiers pluckt the Friends out of the Meeting-house, and being out, the Troopers came and rode among them in order to disperse them, and wounded several; one of whom, *William Howel*, a Carpenter, was run quite through the upper Lip with the Muzzle of a Musket: On the 14th the Soldiers kept them from going into the Meeting-house: On the 20th, being the Seventh Day of the Week, a Party of Soldiers came with Carpenters and others, and pulled down the Meeting-house, and carried away the Boards, Windows, Benches, and Forms, and sold them: On the next Day, the 21st, the Friends came as usual, and met upon the Rubbish of the demolished House, but the Soldiers came and dragged them into the Street: On the 28th a Captain ordered his Soldiers to knock their Brains out: They pulled and haled them from the Place, and having kept them till near Sunset, carried them to the *Marshalsea* Prison, and lodged them there without any Warrant from a Civil Magistrate.

On the 4th of *September*, Soldiers came, headed by a Serjeant, named *Fife*, who, with his Halbert, laid about him like a Madman, and struck and wounded several: On the 18th they took away the greatest Part of the Men assembled, and had them to the *Spur* Inn, where some of the Justices attended.

We shall next transcribe a printed Paper, intituled,

A Short Relation of the barbarous Cruelties inflicted on the People of God called QUAKERS, at their Meeting in Horslydown.

A particular
Relation of
some barbarous
Cruelties.

“ ON the 25th of the Second Month 1670, several of the aforesaid
“ People being peaceably assembled at their usual Meeting-place afore-
“ said, (not in Stubbornness, nor in Contempt to Magistracy, but in Tender-
“ ness of Conscience to God) there came in some Musketers, and haled them
“ forth into the Street, where the Troopers came, and rode in amongst them
“ in a violent Manner, beating and abusing both Men and Women, and
“ punching them in their Faces and Bodies with their Carbines: And soon
“ after the Foot Soldiers came, and fell upon them also, and beat both Men
“ and Women in a cruel and outrageous Manner, also punching them on the
“ Feet with the Butt Ends of their Muskets, and Pikes, till they brake several
“ of them, also running the Muzzles of their Muskets with Violence against
“ the Bodies of many, and then a Party of Horse came desperately and sought
“ to ride over them; but the Horses being more merciful than their Riders,
“ and not going forward, they turned their Horses, and by curbing and rein-
“ ing them backwards, strove to do what Mischief they could. The Number
“ of those that were wounded and sorely bruised, and had their Blood spilt this
“ Day, was above twenty Persons.

“ On the 2d Day of the Eighth Month, they being kept out of the Meeting-
“ place aforesaid, there came a Party of Foot and a Party of Horse, who laid
“ on upon Friends in a violent and cruel Manner, knocking them with their
“ Muskets and Pikes, and the Horsemen with their Carbines, till the Blood
“ lay in the Streets, and so they continued for a long Time, until they brake
“ several Pikes and Muskets, and one Carbine, and then took the Barrel by
“ one End, and gnashed their Teeth, striking till several were so beaten and
“ bruised, that their Lives were in Danger. There were wounded and sorely
“ bruised this Day, above thirty Persons. Again, the 9th of the Eighth
“ Month, the Soldiers, both Horse and Foot, came to the Meeting at the
“ aforesaid Place, and one of them, having a Shovel, threw the Dirt and Mire
“ on both Men and Women in a shameful Manner, and after him came both
“ Horse and Foot and fell upon them, striking and knocking down with-
“ out Respect of Age or Sex in a very cruel Manner, until they spilt the
“ Blood of many; and when some of the Inhabitants in Pity took them
“ into their Houses to save their Lives, the Soldiers forced open the Doors
“ and haled them into the Street again, and pluckt off their Hats, that they
“ might strike on their bare Heads, insomuch that many had their Heads
broken

SURREY.
1670.

“ broken in a very grievous Manner, and thus they continued a long Time ;
 “ also tearing Men’s and Women’s Clothes off their Backs, and haling
 “ Women through the Mire by their Horse-sides, some of the Foot Soldiers
 “ putting their Hands under the Women’s Coats, using unclean Expressions
 “ and immodest Behaviour : And a Red-coat Soldier struck one Woman
 “ Friend twice with his Musket on her Belly, and once on the Breast ; another
 “ flung Dirt in her Face, and since that she hath never been well, but hath
 “ miscarried, these Abuses being the Cause of it, it hath been the Death of
 “ her Child, her Life being in great Danger : And a Man Friend they abused
 “ with Blows, and afterwards took him and carried him into a backward
 “ Place ; being there, one of them demanded his Money, and endeavoured
 “ to rifle his Pockets, swearing *G—d d—n him, he would stab him if he would*
 “ *not give it him ;* swearing again, *he would Pistol him.* The Number of them
 “ that were wounded and had their Blood spilt, and were sorely bruised this
 “ Day, was about fifty Persons.

“ And on the 16th Day of the Eighth Month, being again kept out of
 “ their Meeting-place, there came a great Party of Horse and Foot, and
 “ would presently have fallen upon them, had there not been Constables there,
 “ who for some Time kept them off, but at last they broke out in a great
 “ Rage, and some of the Foot with the Butt Ends of their Muskets, and the
 “ Horsemen with great thick Truncheons and Staves, laid on upon them in such
 “ a violent Manner, as if they would have killed all on the Place, and in a
 “ short Time the Blood ran about the Ears of many ; and above twenty Per-
 “ sons received sore Wounds and cruel Bruises, and one of the Constables
 “ endeavouring to stop them from shedding Blood, and to keep the Peace,
 “ they fell upon him also and broke his Head : And when they were
 “ rebuked for their Cruelty, some answered, *If you knew what Orders we have,*
 “ *you would say, we dealt mercifully with you.*

“ The Substance of the Relation before mentioned, was laid before the King
 “ and his Council, and for some Time there was some Cessation of their
 “ Cruelty, but since they have begun again in the like Manner, though not
 “ in the same Degree, with great Threatnings to be worse and worse in their
 “ savage Behaviour towards them, which cannot well be, except they directly
 “ murder in the Place.

“ Also it is to be observed, that when the Troopers have come, and thus
 “ abused and wounded the Innocent, some have asked them, saying, *How can*
 “ *you deal thus with a People that have Love and Good-will to all Men, and*
 “ *make no Resistance nor Opposition ?* And then they have replied, *We had*
 “ *rather, and it would be better for us you did resist and oppose.* And so it is
 “ manifest they do these Things to provoke Opposition, that they might
 “ embroil their Hands in our Blood, and have our Lives and Estates for a Spoil
 “ and a Prey.

“ Here are a few of the Names of those who had their Blood spilt, and
 “ were sore wounded, as Witnesses to the Truth of these Things, and in
 “ Behalf of themselves and the rest.

“ ROBERT ALLEN,	JOHN POTTER,
“ WILLIAM PEACHY,	STEPHEN COOKE,
“ HENRY HAM,	JOHN DOWDEN,
“ HENRY DAY,	WILLIAM STEWARDSON,
“ EDWARD CRISP,	ADAM WALKER.”

On the 30th of *October*, being kept out, they met in the Street, and a
 Party of Horse came and commanded them to depart, and beat and abused
 many very sorely.

From that Time to the 12th of the Month called *February*, they were
 generally kept out of their Meeting-house, though with fewer Abuses ; and
 afterward they began again peaceably to enjoy their Meetings ; from the

SURRY.
1670.

Prosecution at
Kingston upon
Thames.

Distresses for
Meetings.

1. For Meet-
ings at King-
ston.

2. For Meet-
ings at Wal-
ton.

A poor La-
bourer's Spade
taken away.

3. For Meet-
ings at Ry-
gate.

constant attending of which, it was sufficiently proved, no humane Power, nor any Penalties, could deter them.

At Kingston upon Thames, after the Coming forth of the said Act, the Bayliffs of that Town, and other Officers, were very assiduous in the Execution of it. On the 12th of the Month called May, a Constable and Headboroughs came to the Meeting, and took down what Names they pleased: On the 15th, being the First of the Week, they kept the Friends out of the Meeting-house, who met in the Yard, till the Bayliffs came and ordered them to be pulled out into the Street; and one standing up to preach, they sent him to Goal, and afterward fined him 20*l*. On the 22d they took John Stevens and Henry Pinfold, who being carried before the Bayliffs at the Town-hall, were fined, the one 40*l*. and the other 20*l*. Afterward they appointed Soldiers to keep Friends out of their Meeting-place by Force, who beat them cruelly with Sticks, and puncht them with their Carbines on their Breasts and Backs: They puncht Christopher White on his Breast, so that the Blood flew out at his Nose, and several others were sore a long Time of the Blows received, the Particulars of which it would be tedious to enumerate. The Names of some of those so beaten, were, John Brown, Thomas Burchatt, William Bradley, William Hurd, Stephen Hubbard jun. Richard Webb, and John Hardesty.

Of the Distresses taken at Kingston and other Places for Meetings, we have the following Accounts, viz.

I. For Meetings at KINGSTON.

		Goods worth		
		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Taken from	John Fielder, William Hurd, Christopher White, and Stephen Hubbard	}	23	1 10
	Thomas Jennings, Francis Holden, John Hollis, and William Perry		17	0 0
			40	1 10

II. For Meetings at WALTON.

		Goods worth		
		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Taken from	Thomas Bishop, at whose House there the Meetings were held	}	40	0 0

At one of those Meetings was a very poor labouring Man, who was fined, and for lack of other Goods they took away his Spade, whereby he was disabled to work to maintain three Motherless Children, who had no Support but from his Labour; wherefore he took the youngest of them, an Infant, and carried it to the Parish-Officers to take Care of: Upon which they returned him the Child again, and his Spade to work for it.

III. For Meetings at RYGATE.

		Goods worth		
		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Taken from	Thomas Blatt, of Rygate, Tallowchandler	}	7	10 0
	Rowland Tichbourn, of the same, Shoemaker		5	7 6
	John Hatcher, Richard Hatcher, Anthony Sheppard, and Edmund Moore	}	10	17 0
	Richard Allingham, John Moore, and the Widow Glover		20	0 0
	John Blatt, Tanner, for Meetings at his House	}	35	0 0
			78	14 6

For

For Meetings held in the Street, when kept out of their Meeting-house at SURREY. Guilford, were taken

From Henry Gill and Caleb Woods, of Godalmin, Goods worth 20 9 0
Robert Stedman, of Marrow 3 4 0
William Hampton, of Compton 3 11 0
Henry Chandler, John Lee, and Thomas Passenger 36 9 6
William Constable, of Hossel 2 2 0
John Cooper, Anthony Crossfield, and Richard Deane 17 15 0
Stephen Smith, of Purbright 24 0 0
John Barnard, of Godalmin 21 10 0
John Smith, of Warpleston 30 0 0
Robert Chinton, Richard Baker, and Robert Street 2 11 0
John Remnant, Jacob Benbrick, and Robert Mildred 17 16 0

1670.
Distresses for Meetings.
Distresses for Tithes.
Imprisonment for Stealing.
Dende of H. Day and J. Farmer in Prison.
Imprisonment of T. Farmer.

Andrew Hall, Uriah Worlington, Walter Webb, and John Stevens, were committed to Prison upon a Process against them at the Quarter Sessions, for not repairing to their Parish-Church.

ANNO 1671. Anthony Sheppard, dwelling near Rygate, was imprisoned on an Exchequer Process for Tithes.

ANNO 1672. In this Year John Bishop, of Marden, was committed to Prison for Tithes, though he had about the same Time his Goods taken away to six Times the Value of the Tithes demanded. In this Year also, John Bristow had taken from him by Bayliffs, for Tithes, at the Suit of John Bonnick, Priest of Nudigate, Goods worth 41. 10s. And Thomas Tax, at the Suit of Henry Heskitt, Priest of Charlewood, had a Cow taken by the Bayliff, worth 3l. 5s.

Imprisonment.
Distresses for Tithes.
Prosecutions for Tithes.
Tithes.

There were at this Time many of this People imprisoned in the County Goal for Meetings, refusing to Swear, and other Matters relative to their religious Testimony, of whom were discharged by the King's Letters Patent issued this Year in their Favour, eighteen Persons, viz. George Brigstock, Edward Taylor, Uriah Worlington, William Bowman sen. William Bowman jun. William Welland, Richard Broughton, William Hills, Abraham Shapton, John Baker, Joseph Parker, Thomas Harlow, William Collard, John Stevens, William Harris, William Kidder, Thomas Moore, and Andrew Hall.

Release of Prisoners.
Distresses for Tithes.
Violent Threats of a Priest against A. Rigg.
Distresses for Tithes.

ANNO 1673. John Humphrey, at the Suit of Henry Heskitt, Priest of Charlewood, for Tithes, had Cattle taken from him worth 23l. 10s. And Thomas Henden, for a Year's Tithe, valued at 8l. 10s. had taken from him by the Agents of the same Priest, four fat Oxen worth 26l. From Edward Taylor were taken, at the same Priest's Suit, two Oxen worth 14l. And from Edward Bashford, for a Demand of 30s. two Milch Cows worth 6l. From John Harris, at the Suit of Charles Hampton, Priest of Worth, were taken six Cows and Bullocks: And from Samuel Green, of Oxted, was taken at the Suit of Charles Haskin, Impropiator, a Mare worth 5l.

ANNO 1674. Ambrose Rigg was prosecuted in the Exchequer for Tithes, at the Suit of Robert Pepy, Priest of Gatton, who was so furious, that in the Hearing of several Neighbours, he threatened to kill the said Ambrose: He also prosecuted him and his Wife, as also, Isaac Ingram and Henry Reeve, his Servants, in the Ecclesiastical Court, and procured their Excommunication for Absence from the National Worship. In this Year also, Richard Bax, at the Suit of Henry Heskitt, Priest of Charlewood, for 4l. claimed for Tithes, had three Beasts taken worth 8l. 10s. And at the Suit of Randal, an Impropiator, two fat Beasts also, worth 8l. 10s.

Violent Threats of a Priest against A. Rigg.
Distresses for Tithes.
Imprisonment of A. Rigg.

ANNO 1676. In the Month called July, Ambrose Rigg was indicted at Sessions for not going to hear Common-Prayer, and was committed to Prison, where he lay above half a Year.

In

SURREY. In September, Thomas Woods and John Woods were committed to Prison for refusing to pay toward the Repairs of the Steeple-house at *Whitley*.
1676. About the 20th of December, Stephen Smith and Richard Baker were committed to the *Marshalsea* Prison for Tithes, at the Suit of Gabriel Offley, Priest of *Warpleston*.
Imprisonments. ANNO 1677. Richard Withal, of *Purbet*, had taken from him by a Bayliff, at the Suit of Richard Bird and William Hawes, Impropriators, Household Goods worth 20*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*
Distress for Tithes. In or about the Month called July this Year, John Otter, Griffith Jones, John Tarlton, Joseph Rawbone, Henry Day, John Farmer, Edmund Curle, Thomas Life, and Samuel Martin, were committed to the County Goal on a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, at the Suit of the Wardens of the Parish of Mary Magdalen Bermondsey in *Southwark*, for not paying toward the Repairs of the Parish-Church: Henry Day was taken sick in Prison, and died about two Months after his Commitment. John Farmer also, after above three Years Confinement there, died a Prisoner on the 12th of November 1680.
Imprisonments for Steeple-house Rates. Thomas Seaman, of *Sheer*, was also imprisoned on a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, being prosecuted at the Suit of Edward Dible and John Kelsey, Churchwardens, for refusing to pay towards the Repairs of the Parish-Church, so called.
Deaths of H. Day and J. Farmer in Prison. Robert Mildred and Joseph Hicks, both of *Guilford*, being elected to bear the Office of Ale-tasters, and refusing to take the Oath usual in that Case, were fined, and had their Goods taken away; the former to the Value of 2*l.* 12*s.* and the latter to the Value of 2*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*
Imprisonment of T. Seaman. ANNO 1678. Taken this Year for Tithes, From Stephen Smith, by Gabriel Offley, Priest of *Warpleston*, Corn worth } 6 0 0
Distresses for not Swearing, Richard Baker, by the same Priest 3 10 0
and for Tithes. Thomas Seaman, of *Sheer*, Corn worth 7 0 0
Robert Stedman, of *Morrow*, to the Value of 0 10 0
17 0 0
Imprisonment of F. Jones. Francis Jones, of *Wooten*, was committed to Prison for small Tithes, and continued there about two Years, at the Suit of the Priest of that Parish.
Long Imprisonments for Absence from the National Worship. William Bowman, Henry Franklin, Joane Stringer Widow, and Rebecca Almond, were taken from their Houses by a Bayliff, and carried to the Sessions at *Croydon*; from whence, refusing to pay the Fines imposed on them for their Absence from the National Worship, they were committed close Prisoners to the *Marshalsea*, and lay there a long Time.
Distresses for Tithes. ANNO 1679. William Hampshire, at the Suit of Michael Pike, Priest of *Cranley*, had taken from him five Cows, an Horse, two Mares, and Harnes, to the Value of 25*l.* 18*s.* 0*d.*
Taken also for Tithes, From Richard Chandler, of *Cranley*, Corn worth 0 16 6
Thomas Seaman and Laurence Street, of the same 8 7 6
John Stent, of *Hurtmore* in *Godalmin* Parish 6 10 0
41 12 0
and for refusing to swear. Caleb Wood, chosen to be one of the Ale-tasters of *Guilford*, for refusing to take the Oath of Admittance into that Office, had his Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 1*l.* 10*s.*
The said Caleb Wood and Robert Mildred, being chosen Tithing-men, and refusing to Swear at their Entrance into that Office, had their Goods taken away; the former to the Value of 3*l.* 10*s.* and the latter to the Value of 10*l.* Robert

Robert Christin, of *Godalmin*, for the same Cause, and on the like Occasion, suffered Distress to the Value of 2*l.* 2*s.* SURREY.
1679.

Richard Webb, of *Kingston upon Thames*, was sent to Prison for opening his Shop on the Day called *Christmas-day*.

ANNO 1680. On the 25th of the Month called *July*, *Thomas Seaman*, of *Sheer*, for being at a Meeting in *Guilford*, had his Goods taken away to the Value of 13*l.* In the same Year, upon Informations laid against them on the Statute for 20*l.* per Month for not hearing Common-Prayer, Writs were issued for seizing two Thirds of the Estates of *Alexander Plumptre*, of *Olaves Southwark*, Felt-maker; *William Collard*, of *George's Southwark*, Cheesemonger; *Richard Barnes*, of *Carshalton*; *William Woods*, of *Sutton*; *Thomas Reikes*, of the same; *John Bishop*, of *Morden*, and *Rebecca* his Wife; *John Cole* and *Anne Goldsmith*, of *Mitcham*; and *John Muggerage* and *John Pearce*, of *Croydon*; but they having no real Estates, an Order was issued from the Court of *Exchequer* for levying the pretended Forfeitures on their Goods and Chattels. Exchequer
Writs for
seizing two
Thirds of
Estates.

ANNO 1681. About the Month called *May* this Year, *John Jupp*, of *Horne*, after a Prosecution for Tithes of about 50*s.* Value, at the Suit of Priest *Holt*, had taken from him by a Sequestration out of the *Exchequer*, four Oxen, four Cows, four Calves, and a Mare, worth 36*l.* 10*s.* In the same Year *William Perry* and *John Hollis*, both of *Kingston upon Thames*, were imprisoned in the *Marshalsea* for not paying Tithes. Also *Francis Jones*, a poor Man, for 10*s.* demanded of him for small Tithes, was committed to Prison by a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo*, where he lay several Years, at the Suit of *John Morris*, Priest of *Woking*. Sequestration
Imprison-
ments.

On the 7th of *October*, the following Persons, for refusing to Swear when summoned on the Coroner's Inquest, were fined, and had their Goods taken by Distress, viz. *Gabriel Earwood*, *James Banner*, *John Broadgate*, and *David Rich*. The Goods so taken amounted to 11*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* On the 29th of *December*, *Robert Pate*, of *George's Parish, Southwark*, was fined for being at a Meeting at *Wandsworth*, and had his Goods taken away to the Value of 4*l.* 6*s.* Distresses for
several Causes.

On the 22d of the Month called *January* was a Meeting at *Wandsworth*, to which Justice *Foster*, of *Putney*, with Officers and others, came near the Close of the Meeting, as the Assembly was sitting in Silence: The Justice scoffingly said, *The Spirit does not move them*. He then demanded their Names, but they not answering, he asked their Names of some that stood by, but they replied, *They would not be Informers*. Whereupon he sent for the Constable of the Town, and he appearing unwilling to concern himself, the Justice threatened to fine him 5*l.* if he did not tell him their Names. The Constable thus constrained, gave him the Names of *John Bishop*, *Theophilus Green*, *James Smith*, and some others, whom the Justice fined, and granted Warrants for Distress, by which were taken Convictions
for Meeting,
by Justice
Foster's Or-
der.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
From <i>John Bishop</i> , of <i>Morden</i> , for 10 <i>l.</i> Fine, three Cows worth	12	0	0	} Distresses.
<i>James Smith</i> , of <i>Marston</i> , for 3 <i>l.</i> Fine, Goods worth	4	0	0	
<i>Theophilus Green</i> , of <i>Battersea</i> , for 10 <i>l.</i> Fine, a Barge worth	12	0	0	
	28	0	0	

The Barge taken from *Theophilus Green* was exposed to Sale at several Times and Places, but no Body would purchase it. At length, either by Negligence or Accident, it was broke from its Fastnings, and drove away with the Tide. A Waterman finding the Barge a-drift, and hearing that it belonged to *Theophilus Green*, carried it home to the Owner, who upon his receiving it, forthwith went to the High-Constable, and to the Petty-Constable, who had

*A remarkable
Passage con-
cerning a
Barge of T.
Green's.*

SURRY.
1681.

Theophilus
sent to Prison.

His Prosecutor
visits him in
pretended
Love.

His innocent
Courage.

Bill of Indi-
cment prefer'd
against him.

Evidence.

Grand Jury
reject the Bill.

Christian
Spirit of
Forgiveness.

Imprisonment
upon Excom-
munication
for less than
1s. Tithe.

Distresses for
Tithes.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

been present at the Seizure of it, and told them how it was brought to him, and where he had laid it, signifying, *That as it had been brought him, he was very willing to keep it, but if they took it away again, he would not hinder them.* Justice Foster hearing of this, sent his Warrant for Theophilus, charged him with Felony, and made his *Mittimus* to the *Marshalsea* Prison, to be kept till he should be delivered by due Course of Law. About three Weeks after, the Sessions was held at the *Marshalsea*, and the Justice who committed him being there, came to Theophilus in the Prison, saying, *He came in Love to see him, and advise him for his Good, for, said he, I am sure the Grand Jury has found the Bill against you, and if upon Trial you should get off, yet I have such Influence in Court, as to cause the Oath to be tendered you, and then you incur a Pre-munire, and Imprisonment so long as you live.* Theophilus not at all dismayed at these terrible Threats, with Christian Courage and innocent Boldness, answered thus, viz. *Justice Foster, thou saidst thy Coming was in Love to advise me for my Good, but what thou hast said shews the Contrary; for now I perceive thou hast devised as much Mischief as thou canst against me. As to the Fine, if it were but ten Pence, nay ten Farthings, I would not pay it. And if the Lord should permit thee to do as thou hast said, and so be the Cause of bringing my grey Hairs the sooner to the Grave, my Blood will lie at thy Door, and call for Vengeance on thee.* Next Day the Bill of Indictment against Theophilus came before the Grand Jury, who examining the High Constable, and Petty Constable aforesaid, they gave the following Account, viz. *As to Theophilus Green, though a Quaker, he is a very honest Man, has been, and now is, an Overseer of the Poor of the Parish of Battersea, in which Office he has demeaned himself as uprightly and faithfully as any Man that has served that Office these twenty Years. And as to the Barge, upon its being brought to him, he immediately came and told us of it, and where he had laid it, and that we might take it again if we would.* Upon this Evidence the Grand Jury, being fully satisfied, returned the Bill *Ignoramus*, and some of them knowing Theophilus well, and the Cause of his Prosecution, express their Resentment at Justice Foster's Proceedings: One of them in particular, Sir Richard How, advised Theophilus to bring his Action against the Justice for Defamation and false Imprisonment: But Theophilus meekly answered, that *Vengeance was the Lord's, and he would repay it, and that he would leave the Matter to him, for whose Cause he suffered.* Thus was the honest Man delivered, and the persecuting Justice deservedly exposed in the Pursuit of his arbitrary and illegal Measures.

ANNO 1682. Richard Withall, of Woking, was committed to the *Marshalsea* Prison in *Southwark*, by a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, at the Suit of John Morris, Priest of Woking, for a Demand of less than 1s. for Tithes.

Taken from Edward Bax, of Ockley, at the Suit of Thomas Duncomb, Priest there, for 12 l. demanded, four Cows and two Steers worth 16 l. 5 s. And from John Stedman, at the same Priest's Suit, for 5 l. demanded, three Milch Cows worth 8 l. Taken also from Thomas Bax, of Kitland in Capel, at the Suit of Thomas Randall, Impropiator, for 3 l. 4 s. claimed for Tithes, two Cows worth 5 l. And from Thomas Bax, of Plaster in Capel, at the Suit of the said Randall, five Cows worth 13 l. 10 s. From Richard Chandler was taken for Tithes, by Thomas Redford, an Impropiator, Corn and Tares worth 2 l. 9 s. From George Bignall, of Leigh, for 40 s. demanded for Tithes, were taken a Cow, a Calf and a Bullock, worth 5 l. And from Thomas Seaman, of Sheer, Corn and Hay worth 6 l. 10 s.

On the 18th of September this Year, Ambrose Rigg, of Gatton, had taken from him for Tithes, at the Suit of Robert Pepys, Priest of Gatton, eight Cows worth 32 l. And on the 17th of October, Thomas Chasmer, of Betsworth, had taken from him for Tithes by the Agents of William Wood, of Darking, Impropiator, two Heifers worth 4 l. 10 s. Also George Bignall, for 3 l. 4 s. demanded for Tithes, had three Cows taken from him worth 4 l. 10 s.

On the 22d of the Month called January, Caleb Wood, Roger Jones, and Mary Mulford Widow, were committed to the *Marshalsea* Prison for Tithes, at the Suit of John Holland, Priest of Mary's Parish in Guilford.

Joseph

Joseph Pearce was indicted at the Quarter Sessions for three Days Absence from his Parish-Church, fined 3*s*. and ordered to remain in Prison till Payment: Also *James Smith* was committed to Prison on an Indictment for the like Cause, under Colour of a Contempt of the Court in refusing to plead.

On the 28th of the Month called *January*, *John Vaughton* and *Thomas Griffith* were taken at a Meeting and sent to Prison by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

SURRY.
1682.

Imprisonments
on Indictments
for Absence
from the pub-
lick Worship.

“ *Surry* *js*.

“ *To the Keeper of the Common Goal for the said County.*

“ **F**ORASMUCH as I *James Reading*, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for this County, being informed of an unlawful Assembly of several Persons met together in *St. Saviours* Parish within the said County, to the Disturbance of his Majesty's Peace, and contrary to his Laws, did this Day resort together, went with the Assistance of several Constables unto the said Place, where they were so assembled in the publick Street, and there caused Proclamation to be made in his Majesty's Name, commanding the Persons met to depart and keep his Majesty's Peace: Nevertheless one *John Vaughton* and *Thomas Griffith*, being unlawfully there assembled with others, to the Number of at least forty Persons, did refuse so to do, and the said *John Vaughton* and *Thomas Griffith*, being by me severally required to find Sureties for their personal Appearance at the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to answer the same, and in the mean Time to be of the good Behaviour, they refused severally so to do. These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to command you to receive into your Custody the Bodies of the said *John Vaughton* and *Thomas Griffith*, and them safely keep until they shall find Sureties as aforesaid. Given under my Hand and Seal this 28th Day of *January* 1682.

Mittimus of
J. Vaughton
and *T. Grif-*
fith to Prison.

“ *JA. READING.*”

About six Weeks after, *Roger Longworth* was sent to the same Prison by a *Mittimus* in the following Form, viz.

“ *Surry* *js*.

“ *To the Keeper of the Common Goal for the County of Surry.*

“ **I** Send you herewith the Body of *Roger Longworth*, Shoemaker, charged upon Oath by the Churchwardens, Constables, and one of the Overseers of the Parish of *St. Olaves*, for heading a tumultuous and riotous Assembly of disorderly Persons in the open Street, and being commanded, in his Majesty's Name, to depart, they contemptuously refused to obey: And the said *Roger Longworth* took upon him by talking and other Misbehaviour, to encourage the said Tumult and Riot, and for that he refused to find sufficient Sureties to answer the several Offences and Misdemeanours at the next Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be held for the said County. These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to will and require you to receive the Body of the said *Roger Longworth* into your Custody, and him safely keep until he shall be discharged by due Course of Law. Given under my Hand and Seal from the *Bridgehouse* this 11th Day of *March* 1682.

Mittimus of
Roger Long-
worth.

“ *W. PYERS.*”

In this Year also, *John Lea*, of *Guilford*, for refusing to Swear when summoned to take upon him the Office of a Constable, had Goods taken from him to the Value of 11*l*. 16*s*.

Distresses for
refusing to
Swear.

ANNO

SURRY.
1683.

Imprison-
ments.

Death of
H. Chandler.

His Character.

Prosecutions
for Absence
from the
National
Worship.

Indictments at
the Assizes.

Prosecutions
at Quarter
Sessions.

Mittimus of
W. Bingley
to Prison.

ANNO 1683. On the 22d of the Month called May, James Snelling, of Purbright, was committed to Prison for refusing to pay Tithe.

On the 22d of the Month called February, Henry Chandler, of Thorncomb Street in the Parish of Shalford, died a Prisoner, in the Fleet at London, for Tithes. He was at first cast into the Marshalsea Prison in Southwark, at the Suit of John Reynaldson, Priest of Shalford, for small Tithes, and was removed thence to the Fleet, where he was taken sick of the Small Pox: And though the Priest, on Application made to him, did consent that he might be removed to his own House, yet he was too weak to accept of that Grant, and so died in the Prison, being about sixty five Years of Age. The Character given concerning him by those who well knew him, was, that *He was an innocent, honest, true-hearted Man, of a clean Life and Conversation, and suffered for his Testimony with much Patience and Contentment.*

At the Quarter Sessions at Guilford, on the 3d of the Month called July 1683, were prosecuted for Absence from the National Worship, the several Persons following, viz. Henry Gill and Ezra Gill, of Eashing; John Smith, Robert Chenton, Resta Patchin, William Baker, and John Paine, of Godalmin; George Draper, of the Parish of Nicholas; John Stent, of Hartmoor; Thomas Woods, and William Hampton, of Compton; John Woods, of Whitley; Richard Baker and Robert Smith, of Warplejden.

At the Assizes, held at Kingston on the 12th of the same Month, Thomas Blatt, John Blatt the Younger, and Elizabeth Blatt, all of Rygate, were indicted for six Months Absence from the National Worship: And for the same Cause, at the same Assizes, George Vaux, of Rygate, Thomas Collier, of Elsted, Thomas Frinsham, of Farnham, Edward Steel, of the same, the Widow Andrews, Robert Belfon, of Frinley, and his Wife, George Hampton, of Seale, Charles Paine, John Bellinghurst, Mary Bicknall, George Bicknall, and James Bicknall, of the same, Robert Stedman, of Morrow, Nathanael Owen, of Lympsfield, and Samuel Green, of Oxted, were ordered to be returned into the Exchequer.

At the Quarter Sessions at Guilford, on the 3d of the Month called August, Caleb Wood, Jacob Benbrick, John Cooper, John Lea, Stephen Wilke, and Edward Wilson, all of that Town, were prosecuted for one Months Absence from the Parish-Church.

On the 5th of the same Month, William Bingley was sent to Goal by the following Mittimus, viz.

“ Surry fs.

“ W H E R E A S several disorderly Persons, to the Number of forty
“ and upwards, who owned themselves to be Quakers, being unlawfully
“ assembled, and under Colour of Religion, causing a Tumult and Disturbance
“ in the Street, were brought before me by Capt. Williams and his Officers:
“ And for that also William Bingley, herewith sent you, being in the said
“ Assembly, and owning himself to be of that Sect, is charged upon Oath
“ before me, to have taken upon him to teach or preach in the said Assembly,
“ contrary to his Majesty's Laws in that Case provided. And forasmuch as
“ the said William Bingley refuses to find Sureties to answer the said Complaint
“ at the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be held for this
“ County, and such other Misdemeanours as then and there shall be objected
“ against him, and for his being of the good Behaviour in the mean Time.

“ These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to require you to receive the
“ said William Bingley, and him in your Custody safely keep until he shall
“ find sufficient Sureties, or be otherwise discharged by due Course of Law.
“ Given under my Hand and Seal this fifth Day of August, Anno Domini 1683.

To the Keeper of the Common Goal
for the County aforesaid.

“ W. M. PYERS.”

On

On the 29th of the same Month, Goods were taken by Distress from *James Parke*, of the Parish called *St. Olaves Southwark*, for Absence from the National Worship, to the Value of 12 l.

About the same Time *Thomas Paul*, *Edward Day*, *William Hopkins*, *William Tomson*, *John Simonds*, *John Potter*, *John Packer*, and *Nicholas Hockley*, were Prisoners in the *Marshalsea* for frequenting religious Meetings: And for the same Cause *William Knight* died under Confinement in the same Prison.

On the 9th of September, *John Blatt* was taken preaching at a Meeting in the House of *Nathanael Owen*, of *Lympsfield*, and fined 20 l. On the 26th a Captain of the Militia, with Soldiers and a Constable, came to his House, broke open several Locks, and seized some Goods, which they lockt up in a Room. On the 1st of October, they carried away fifteen Butts of Leather worth 20 l. which after they had kept near six Months, was carried to *Leaden-ball Market* in *London*, by *Thomas Taylor*, a Currier of *Rygate*, who was hired to sell it. He, eager to execute his Commission, sold it before it was seal'd for 15 l. taking 5 s. in Part of Payment. The Sealers, being acquainted of this, seized the Leather for the King's Use, as being forfeited by its unlawful Sale. By this Means, though the religious Sufferer lost his Goods, yet the mercenary Informers, who occasioned the Seizure, were disappointed of that Part of the Spoil which they expected.

In this Year *George Vaux*, of *Rygate*, was excommunicated for practising Physick without a License from the Ecclesiastical Court: And *Richard Scoryer*, of *Wandsworth*, for a Fine for Meeting, had his Goods taken away worth 2 l. 6 s. 6 d. Also *Ambrose Rigg* was prosecuted in the *Exchequer*, at the Procurement of *Robert Pepys*, Priest of *Gatton*, on the Statute of 20 l. per Month, for eleven Months Absence from the National Worship: Likewise *Edward Hoare*, of *Guilford*, was several Months imprisoned on an Indictment for not going to Church.

ANNO 1684. In the Month called *July*, *Richard Webb*, of *Kingston*, was committed to the *Marshalsea* Prison for his Constancy in attending religious Meetings, which about this Time they were frequently obliged to hold in the Street, being kept out of their Meeting-house by the Mayor's Order: For the same Cause also, *Thomas Rudd* suffered Imprisonment in the same Goal.

In November, upon Complaint or Information made to the Recorder of *London*, of a Meeting in *Grace-church-street*, and that *Robert Hasle*, an Inhabitant of *Southwark*, was there, he issued the following Warrant, viz.

“ *Surry* *js.*

“ To all Constables, Headboroughs, Churchwardens, Overseers
“ of the Poor, Bayliffs, and all other his Majesty's Officers in
“ the said County whatsoever.

“ W H E R E A S by the Oath of two credible Witnesses before me Sir
“ *Thomas Jenner* Knt. Recorder of *London*, and one of his Majesty's
“ Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid, there was a Conventicle or
“ unlawful Assembly, held the 22d Day of October last past, in *Grace-church-*
“ *street* in the City of *London*, wherein were a Company of Persons, all above
“ the Age of sixteen Years, and Subjects of this Realm, to the Number of
“ twenty Persons more than those of the Family or Household, contrary to the
“ Act of Parliament in that Case made and provided: Among whom was
“ *Robert Hasle*, of *St. Olaves Southwark* in the County of *Surry*, Taylor. In
“ which Conventicle, or Assembly, was a Person to these Deponents unknown,
“ who did take upon him to teach and preach, under Colour or Pretence of
“ Exercise of Religion, in other Manner and Form than according to the
“ Liturgy of the Church of *England*, whereby the Penalty of twenty Pounds
“ was forfeited by the Preacher or Teacher aforesaid, who being unknown, as
“ aforesaid,

SURRY.
1683.

Imprisonments
for Meetings.

Death of
W. Knight in
Prison.

Prosecution of
J. Blatt for
Preaching.

Excommunica-
tion of a Prac-
titioner of
Physick.

Various other
Prosecutions.

Imprisonments
for Meetings.

Warrant from
the Recorder
of *London*.

SURRY.
1684.

“aforesaid, the Penalty by him forfeited, ought of Consequence to be levied by the said Act upon the Hearers and Persons there present and convicted thereof, so as not above ten Pounds be levied upon any one Person for any one Offence; for which Cause I have imposed the Fine of five Shillings for his own Offence as an Hearer; and because the Preacher is unknown, I have by Direction of the said Act, allotted him to pay the Sum of nine Pounds fifteen Shillings for Part of the said Preacher's Offence. These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, and by Virtue of the said Act, to command you, or some of you, to levy the said Sum of ten Pounds by Way of Distress and Sale of the said Offender's Goods above-mentioned, and that if you are refused Entrance into the House, or any Part of the House or Houses in Possession or Occupation of the said Robert Hasle, after you have declared your Business in his Majesty's Name, you are hereby required to break open all and every the Doors and Barracadoes of and belonging to any Part of the House or Houses as aforesaid, and to levy the full Contents of what you can find towards all and every the Warrants that you shall be charged with during the Time you are in Possession of such Premises, in Pursuance of the said Statute: And that you return the same to me to be distributed according to the said Act: And for so doing this shall be your Warrant. Given under my Hand and Seal this 11th Day of November, Anno regni Regis Caroli Secundi 36^o Annoque Domini 1684.

“THOMAS JENNER, Recorder.”

Thus the Recorder, in his abundant Zeal for the Church, exercised his Power by exerting it in an unusual Manner, and acting as a Justice for the County of Surry, which in other Cases he had not commonly done. But the Informers chose on this Occasion to apply to him as a Person whose Readiness to encourage them they had before experienced.

Distress for
Tithes.

On the 8th of December, Thomas Chasmer, of Batsworth, for 30s. demanded of him for Tithes by William Wood, an Impropiator, had a Cow and a young Bullock taken from him worth 4l. 5s.

Prosecutions
in or near
Kingston upon
Thames.

ANNO 1685. The following Persons in or near Kingston upon Thames, were indicted on the Statute for 20l. per Month, for Absence from the National Worship, viz. Stephen Hubbard, Richard Webb, John Rouse, Robert Thorp, Nicholas Benson, John Becket, William Perry, and Anne Fielder: Also Gilbert Latey, though dwelling in Middlesex, was indicted in this County for the same Cause: For which Cause also, Thomas Ridley, of Putney, and Richard Almond, of Wandsworth, suffered Distress of their Goods; the former to the Value of 18l. 15s. and the latter to the Amount of 2l. 1s. Also Robert Belfon and Susanna his Wife, George Hampton, John Billingshurst, Mary Bicknall Widow, George Bicknall, Henry Steele, Thomas Frensham, Charles Paine, Mary Dare, William Harding, George Draper, Thomas Luck, and Thomas Butterfield, dwelling at or near Guilford, having been convicted at the Quarter Sessions on the said Statute for 20l. per Month, for not going to Church, had Warrants issued out of the Exchequer for levying the Penalties on their respective Estates.

In this Year the following Case of this People in the said County was drawn up, and presented by the Subscribers, viz.

“To the KNIGHTS and BURGESSES of the County and Borough Towns
“of Surry, chosen Members of this present PARLIAMENT.

“The Suffering Case of the People called QUAKERS in the said Towns and
“County, humbly presented.

Case presented
to the Mem-
bers of Par-
liament.

“WE your Countrymen, Friends, and Neighbours, in the Behalf of
“our selves and our suffering Friends, tenderly beseech your Christian
“Consideration of our deplorable suffering Condition, being purely for
“Conscience-sake towards the all-powerful God that made us.

“Many

" Many of us have been long and still are Prisoners in the County Prison for
 " no other Cause than peaceably serving and worshipping the All-seeing God,
 " and by Priests, Informers, Excommunications, and Non-payment of Fines,
 " many and tedious have been our Imprisonments to the necessitating our
 " Families, besides the great Spoil of our Goods upon the Conventicle-Act,
 " together with our hard Usage at Kingston by a Constable, where our Friends
 " have been very grievously abused by pinching, punching, and thrusting into
 " a nasty Ditch, so that one Woman had her Arm broke, and several fore
 " bruised and maimed, that they were forced to keep their Beds a long Time
 " after, narrowly escaping with their Lives: And they have gotten those
 " Hurts that they will feel as long as they live, only for meeting together to
 " wait upon the Lord. And the numerous Convictions we lie under upon
 " the Statute of 20 l. per Month, besides the late Presentments upon the said
 " Statute for Non-Conformity, which on our Parts is not from any Selfishness
 " or Obstinacy, but singly in Obedience towards God, and to keep our Peace
 " with him, who bears us Record therein, and though differing from others in
 " some outward Circumstances, yet our peaceable Deportment and Clearness
 " from injuring any, testifies our Innocency.

" Therefore we intreat such tender charitable Construction of our Cause from
 " you, according to your present Station and Capacity, as to endeavour and
 " move for our Relief, that our Families may be preserved from Ruin and
 " Spoil. So intreating you to consider our Case as your own, desiring the
 " Lord to incline you to do as you would be done unto, wishing your
 " Welfare and Prosperity in Mercy and Truth, we remain

" Your loving Neighbours and Friends to the King and Kingdom.

" AMBROSE RIGG,

" GEORGE BEALE,

" NATHANAEL OWEN."

ANNO 1686 to 1690. The Accounts we have recorded of Tithes, taken
 in Corn, Hay, Cattle, Lambs, and other Things in this County, are as
 follows, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
From Thomas Jones sen. of Warpleston, Lambs worth	0	7	6
Roger Jones, of Guilford, for 18 s. demanded,	2	12	6
Goods worth			
Richard Brown, of Capel, for 2 l. 6 s. 4 d. de-	5	0	0
manded, Goods worth			
John Blatt, of Rygate, Hay and Corn worth	15	19	0
William Blatt, of the same, Hay and Corn worth	6	2	0
Ambrose Rigg, Hops and other Things worth	5	10	0
Refta Patchin, of Nudigate, Horses, Oxen, and	49	14	8
other Cattle, Corn, Hay, and Money, to the			
Value of			
Richard Brown, of Capel, Goods worth	3	7	6
Richard Bax jun. of the same, Corn worth	11	0	0
Thomas Bax, of the same, Corn, &c. worth	3	0	8
John Bignall, of Rygate, Corn worth	5	6	0
Thomas Blatt, and John Blatt jun. of the same	1	1	0
John Stedman, of Capel, Corn, &c. worth	6	15	0
John Rouse, of Kingston upon Thames	3	17	6
Thomas Ellen, of Esber, and John Horley, of	9	13	0
the same			
Thomas Hayman, of Thames-Ditton	0	17	0
George Vaux, of Rygate	1	10	0

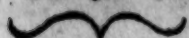
Carried over 131 13 4

Accounts of
 Tithes of
 Corn, &c.

SURREY.

1686 to

1690.



Distresses on
A. Bax for
Charges of
the Militia.

	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	131	13	4
From James Stenning, of Ewburst, two Oxen worth	8	0	0
George Bignall, of Leigh, five Beasts worth	9	0	0
Richard Needham, for Priest's Maintenance	0	4	6
	148	17	10

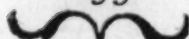
In the Year 1690, *Anne Bax*, a Widow of *Capel*, had a fat Bullock taken from her by Distress, worth 3*l.* for her conscientious Refusal to contribute toward the Charges of the *Militia* for this County: Which Suffering of hers is the last we find recorded within the Time to which our present Account is limited.

Wherefore we proceed to *Suffex*.

G H A P. XXXIV.

SUSSEX.

1655.



Variety of
Sufferings on
several Occa-
sions.

S U S S E X.

ANNO 1655.

THOMAS LACOCK being religiously concerned in one of the publick Assemblies, after the Priest had closed his customary Performance, to give a *Christian* Exhortation to the People, was, for his Love and Goodwill, requited with four Months Imprisonment. Also *Brian Wilkinson*, of *Nutburst*, for sending some Queries, and writing a Letter to the Priest of *Horsbarnham*, which the Justices termed scandalous, suffered nine Months Imprisonment, to his great Detriment, being confined during the Time of Harvest. Likewise *Joseph Fuce*, being on his Travels, occasionally preaching, was taken by Order of the Mayor of *Arundel*, and sent to *Portsmouth*, to be shipt for *Jamaica* among a Company of disorderly Persons, who had been sentenced thither for their vicious Courses: His Piety being deemed as criminal as their Profaneness. Sundry others in this Year, for refusing to pay Tithes, for Demands amounting but to 6*l.* 13*s.* suffered Distress of their Corn and other Goods to the Value of 21*l.* 10*s.* There were also some Persons, who for 9*s.* demanded of them toward repairing the Houses for publick Worship, had Goods taken from them worth 40*s.*

Imprisonment
of N. Rick-
man and his
Wife.

ANNO 1656. *Nicholas Rickman*, and *Frances* his Wife, were committed to Prison by the Mayor of *Arundel*, he, for writing a Paper concerning the true Worship of God; and she, for testifying against one *Henry Staples*, her own Brother, one of the Priests of that Place. They lay in Prison through a very cold Winter, shut up from their Trade and Family: Two Sessions passed during their Imprisonment, at which they were not called, and at the third Sessions, they were discharged, no legal Cause appearing for their Commitment: Yet their Goods, to the Value of 24*s.* were some Time after taken away for the Charges of their unjust Commitment. In this Year also, *Thomas Laycock* was, by the same Mayor, sent to the House of Correction, where he was whipt, and for some Time kept in Irons, lying several Weeks in Winter in a cold low Room without Boards, having neither Fire, Candle, nor a Bed to lie on, though no Transgression of any Law had been proved against him, nor was there any legal Cause assigned for such his barbarous Usage. About this Time, some of this Persuasion having a religious Meeting at *Brighthelmstone*, were cruelly used and stoned by the People there; and

T. Laycock
whipt and put
in Irons.

and one *Richard Pratt* shortly after presented a Paper to the Bench of Justices at *Lewis*, representing their Case, and desiring the Justices to exert their Authority in protecting the Innocent from such Abuses; but they, instead of regarding his just Complaint, sent him to the House of Correction, and ordered him to be whipt there, and kept to hard Labour. As they were haling him away to *Bridewell*, the People were very abusive, and pushed him, so that he was likely to fall, to prevent which, one *William Hobbin* took hold of him; this was called an Attempt to rescue the Prisoner; for which *Hobbin* was fined 5*l.* and sent to Prison for refusing to pay it. The aforesaid *Bryan Wilkinson*, with *John Fursby* and *Thomas Patchen*, were imprisoned for buying and having *Quakers* Books, which the Justices called *seditions*, and though they could assign no Law therein transgressed, yet they kept them from Sessions to Sessions without bringing them to any Trial for about ten Months. In this Year *Thomas Robertson* and *Margaret Wilkinson*, for some Offence they had given the Priests, whom it was dangerous to reprove, were committed to Prison: The Justices at this Time were so severe against the *Quakers*, that they not only committed some of them illegally, but strictly insisted on their close Confinement. And when *Richard Luckins*, Keeper of *Horsbam* Goal, knowing the Integrity of his Prisoners, gave some of them Leave to go out on their *Parole*, the Justices were so angry, that they sent the Goaler to the House of Correction, and detained him there several Weeks to his great Prejudice: Thus punishing him for his Humanity in shewing Favour to his Prisoners, whom he knew to be hardly dealt with by the Justices.

In this Year, for Demands of 33*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* for Tithes, Goods were taken from several Persons in this County, to the Value of 123*l.* 10*s.* And the Widow *Killingbeck*, an aged Woman, for 12*s.* demanded of her for Tithes, was cast into Prison, and suffered much in a very cold Winter. Others, for refusing to contribute toward the repairing of the Steeple-houses, for 1*l.* 4*s.* demanded, had their Goods taken to the Value of 1*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

ANNO 1657. In this Year the Parishioners of *Cosfold*, being to elect a Minister, to supply their Cure then vacant, publick Notice was given, that if any would object against the Life or Doctrine of the Person proposed for that Office, they should appear at the Steeple-house at the Day appointed for the Election: Accordingly *Margery Caustock* went, and offered to prove the Person proposed to be unsound and corrupt both in Life and Doctrine: But they refused to hear her, and carried her before a Neighbouring Justice, who committed her to Prison, where she lay above half a Year.

Some of this People also suffered through the fiery Zeal which many of the Professors of those Times were acted by. It happened that *John Baker*, an Apprentice to *Nathanael Blunden*, a Draper and Taylor in *Chiltington*, being convinced of the *Quakers* Principles, made Profession of the same: Wherefore his Master beat him most outrageously, knockt him down, and used him with much Cruelty, and at length turned him illegally out of his Service, without performing the Covenants of his Indenture.

In the same Year *John Snashold*, of *Chiltington*, for going into the Steeple-house at *Billinghurst*, probably with his Hat on, was committed to Prison, and kept there seven Weeks, in which Time he was five Times arraigned at Sessions and Assizes: But at length being had before the Barons of the *Exchequer*, he was by them set at Liberty.

John Barber, of *Henfield*, was imprisoned for a Demand of 10*s.* for Tithes, and afterwards for the same, had his Goods taken to twelve Times that Value.

Richard Pratt and *Nicholas Beard* were imprisoned for a Contempt, notwithstanding their personal Appearance in the Court of *Exchequer*, as cited.

In this Year, for Demands of 59*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* for Tithes, Goods were taken from several Persons to the Amount of 106*l.* 10*s.* And for Demands of 3*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* for Steeple-house Repairs, were taken Goods worth 12*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*

ANNO 1658. *Alice West* of *Green*, and *Thomas Patchen* of *Ifield*, were committed to *Horsbam* Goal for exhorting the People in the Steeple-house of their

SUSSEX.
1656.

R. Pratt sent
to Bridewell.

Several impris-
oned for sel-
ling Quakers
Books.

Severity and
Injustice of
the Justices.

Imprisonment
of a Goaler
for his Hu-
manity.

Distresses for
Tithes.

Imprisonment
of an aged
Woman.

Distresses for
Steeple-house
Rates.

Unjust Imprisonment
of
M. Caustock.

Suffering of
J. Baker an
Apprentice.

Imprisonment
for Tithes.

Distresses.

Sundry Imprisonments.

SUSSEX.
1658.

Death of
J. Larbee.

Imprisonments
and other
Cruelties.

Attachment.

Distress.

Cruel Fruits
of ignorant
Zeal.

Illegal Imprisonment.

Distresses for
Fines.

Imprisonment
for refusing
to swear.

Various
Abuses.

respective Parishes, and continued Prisoners above a Year. In the mean Time, *James Larbee*, for speaking to a Priest in the Steeple-house at *Chichester*, was sent to Prison, where he suffered much under a cruel Keeper, and after five Months close Confinement, was released. A few Days after his Discharge, he died, carrying to his Grave the Marks of the Bruises which he had received, and which, it was believed, did hasten his Death.

About the same Time, *John Pullet*, of *Brightbelmstone*, for speaking to the Priest and People in the Steeple-house there, was imprisoned in the *Block-house*, and the next Day sent to the County Goal till Sessions, and then sentenced to *Bridewell*, to be whipt and kept to hard Labour. The Time of his Confinement in the Goal and *Bridewell*, was about six Months. In the same Year, the Widow *Hatch* exhorting the People in one of their Assemblies for Worship, some of them put a Rope about her Neck, and dragg'd her out at the Door.

Nicholas Beard and *Clement Hyland* were arrested by the Priest of *Rottingdean*, for speaking the Truth to him, and sent to *Horsham* Goal.

Robert Adams, of *Simson*, upon an Attachment out of the *Exchequer* for Tithes, was imprisoned, and continued there two Years.

In this Year, for Demands of 40*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* for Tithes, Goods were taken from several Persons, to the Value of 97*l.*

There being a Meeting held on the First-day of the Week, at the House of *William Gold* in *Brightbelmstone*, the People of that Town coming from their Worship, produced Fruits of that ignorant Zeal which formal Professors are filled with against those who worship God in Spirit and in Truth. They furiously broke the Windows of the House, which one Woman was observed to do very devoutly with her Bible, after which they threw in Abundance of Mire and Dirt, and at length rushing violently in, haled out *Joseph Fuce* and others, throwing him dangerously on the Ground, and dragging him out of Town, threatened him, that if ever he came thither again, they would throw him into the Sea. After this Manner the People there frequently insulted and abused those who were religiously assembled; of which Abuses *Margery Gausstock* had a large Share: Her Daughter also, of the same Name, going from a Meeting, was cruelly stoned, and wounded in the Face to the hazarding the Loss of her Eye, and her Blood was spilt to that Degree, that some of the mad Zealots boasted of their having killed one *Quaker*, as they had almost done another, viz. *Richard Pratt*, by stoning him. Thus they fulfilled the Scripture which saith, *The Time cometh, that whosoever killeth you, will think that he doth God good Service.* John xvii. 2. The like Barbarity was exercised on the Friends at their Meetings in *Lewis*, where the Windows were often broke, and their Persons abused by Water, Dung, and other Nastiness thrown upon them. At one Meeting, at the *Old Castle-Green*, the rude Rabble, among whom were some Sons of the *Independent* Professors, came with Swords, Guns, and Pikes, rushing violently upon the Friends, as they were kneeling in Time of Prayer. At other Times they threw Squibs of Gunpowder, and other Fire-works, to the burning of their Clothes and wounding of their Bodies.

Thomas Lacock was taken out of a religious Meeting at *Nicholas Rickman's* in *Arundel*, and sent to Goal without any legal Cause assigned, where he remained above a Year.

The following Persons had their Goods taken away under Pretence of Fines for breaking the *Sabbath*, only for going to their religious Meetings on that Day, namely, *Edward Hamper*, *William Turner*, *Tristram Martin*, *Nicholas Rickman*, and *Richard Cooke*, to the Value of 4*l.* 12*s.* The said *Richard Cooke*, a very poor Man, died before his Goods were sold; yet did the Prosecutor proceed to sell them without any Commiseration of his necessitous Widow and Fatherless Children.

Ninion Brocket, chosen Constable, and refusing to take upon him the usual Oath to qualify him for that Office, suffered fifteen Months Imprisonment.

ANNO 1659. *John Snashold* of *Chiltington*, and *Nicholas Beard* of *Brightbelmstone*, going into the respective Steeple-houses of those Places, were much abused,

abused, haled by the Hair of the Head, and the former thrown over a Seat to the endangering of his Life. This was done by the Hearers, but in some Cases the Priests themselves, made their own (not sacred) Hands, the Executioners of their Resentment; for Instance, *Margery Caustock*, of *Panning's* Parish, going into the Steeple-house there, and speaking to *Adam Hossam*, Priest, after he had ended his Worship, he furiously assaulted her, tore her Clothes and Handkerchief, puncht her on the Stomach, and beat her back against a Seat. As little of *Christian* Meekness appeared in *Thomas Meade*, Priest of *Redgwick*, who, in the Steeple-house there, violently punched *John Blackfan* on the Breast, and encouraged the rude Multitude to beat him, so that his Body was much bruised. The like Usage the same Person met with from *John Honney*, Priest of *Woodmancott*, who when *Henry Steel*, one of his Parishioners, after Sermon, asked him a sober Question, gave him reproachful Names instead of an Answer, while the Priest's Son, in his Father's Presence, shamefully prickt the Man's Leg with a Pin at the End of a Stick, without Reproof. About the same Time *Bryan Wilkinson*, of *Nuthurst*, was violently thrust out of the Steeple-house there, and puncht on the Breast with both Hands by *Robert Fish*, Priest of that Parish, and when the said *Bryan*, in the same Steeple-house Yard, was reading some Scriptures to the People, another Priest, named *Mitchel*, attempted to snatch or beat the Bible out of his Hands. From these Instances of fighting Priests, the Reader may observe, how apt the sudden Transports of furious Zeal and blind Revenge are to hurry Men into Actions, not only beneath the Character they pretend to bear, but even below the Rules of common Decency in their Behaviour.

Edward Hamper and *Nicholas Rickman* were sent to the House of Correction at *Arundel*, for asking the Priest there a Question about some Doctrine he had been then preaching.

Humphry Killingbeck, being in one of the Steeple-houses, was struck violently over the Head by a Butcher with a great Cudgel.

Sarah Marner was much abus'd, kickt, and turn'd out of the Steeple-house at *Fildeworth* by the Parish-Clerk, for speaking a few Words to the Priest, after his Service was ended.

Mary Akehurst, a religious Woman of *Lewis*, going into a Steeple-house there, and asking a Question of the Independent Preacher, after his Sermon, was dragg'd out by the People, and afterward beaten and puncht by her Husband, so that she could not lift her Arms to her Head without Pain. She also suffered much cruel Usage from her said Husband, who bound her Hand and Foot, and grievously abused her, for reproving one of the Priests who had falsely accused her. Her Husband also kept her chained for a Month together, Night and Day, attempting in vain by such Cruelty to deter her from the Profession of the Truth, as held by the Quakers, to which she nevertheless with *Christian* Courage and Constancy adhered.

Nicholas Lambeth was cruelly beaten with many Stripes by a Company of rude Persons, who sent for him to an House, under Pretence of hearing some good Exhortation from him, he having before been concerned to preach in the Hearing of some of them.

Richard Snashold, standing silently in the Steeple-house of the Parish he lived in, was violently haled out at the Priest's Command, who rewarded one of the rude Boys with a piece of Money for his Service in forcing out the Quaker.

Henry Bennett was arrested and sent to *Horsbam* Goal for Tithes; as were also, *Richard Beard*, *Richard Webb*, and *John Adams*, all of *Rottingdean*, at the Suit of *John Apsey* and *Edward Goreing*.

John Blackfan, of *Stanning*, was prosecuted in the Exchequer for 20*l.* for Tithes of eight Acres and an Half, when all the Corn that grew upon his Land was scarce worth half that Money.

For Claims of Tithes amounting to 78*l.* 18*s.* were taken in this Year from several Persons, Corn and Goods worth 210*l.* 5*s.*

SUSSEX.
1659.

Acts of some fighting Priests.

Remark thereon.

Imprisonments.

Abuses.

Persecution of M. Akehurst,

N. Lambeth,

and R. Snashold.

Imprisonment of H. Bennett for Tithes.

Exchequer Process.

Distresses for Tithes.

Exorbitant

SUSSEX.
1659.

Exorbitant
Seizures.

Grievous Im-
prisonment.

Variety of
Prosecutions
for Tithes.

Imprisonments
for Meeting,
and refusing to
swear.

Imprisonments
for Tithes,

and refusing to
swear.

Exorbitant
Seizures for
Tithes.

Exorbitant was the Distress made on *John Tugwell*, of *Ifield*, who for 11s. claimed for Tithes, had a Cow taken from him worth 7*l.* 10*s.* And as extream was the Seizure on the Goods of *Nicholas Beard*, of *Rottingdean*, to the Value of 11*l.* 5*s.* for one Year's Tithe of a Farm of but 100*l.* Yearly Rent.

John Shaw, of *Shipley*, for his conscientious Refusal to pay Tithes, suffered a grievous and hard Imprisonment; the Independent Preachers of those Times being no less rigid in exacting Tithes, than were the Episcopal Priests after the Restoration of *King Charles the Second*.

ANNO 1660. On the 17th of the Month called *June*, *George Brigstock*, for refusing to pay Tithes, was committed to *Horsham Goal*, at the Suit of *Ralph Cooke*, Priest of *Burston*: After three Months he was removed to the *King's-Bench*, and afterward had Goods worth 35*l.* taken from him for an original Demand of but 6*l.* On the 20th of the same Month, *Richard Newman*, of *Stenning*, was sent to the same Prison, at the Suit of *Charles Blackwell*, and continued there about eighteen Months. On the 14th of the Month called *August*, *Robert Tribe*, of *Rygate*, was sent to Prison, at the Suit of *George Vaughan*, for Tithes: And in *October* were committed for the same Cause, *Thomas Luxford*, of *Hurst-Pier-Point*, at the Suit of *Leonard Lechford*, Priest; also *Arthur Stanbridge*, of *Ifield*, at the Suit of *Henry Hollywell*, Priest of that Parish.

On the 23d of the Month called *January*, *William Garton* and *William Duffield*, both of *Ifield*, having been seen at a religious Meeting, were, at the Instigation of *Henry Hollywell*, a Priest, taken from their Employments and carried before the Justices, who tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and on their Refusal to Swear, sent them to Prison till the Assizes, when the Oath being again tendred in Court to *William Garton*, and refused, he was sent back to Prison. About the same Time *Richard Scrase*, *Walter Scrase*, *William Holben*, *John Wenham*, *John Adams*, *Francis Randall*, *Thomas Britbledge*, *Stephen Eager*, *Eleanor Robinson*, *Elizabeth Hilton*, *Anne Cottingham*, *Susan Cowper*, and *Elizabeth Galloway*, were taken out of a Meeting at the *Clift* near *Lewis*: They were kept all Night at an Inn, and next Day carried before several Justices at *Packham*, who committed them to *Horsham Goal* till the next Assizes, when they were set at Liberty without any legal Examination or Trial. For the same Cause, *John Shaw*, *Richard Shaw*, *Richard Pannell*, *Richard Sturgis*, *Richard Snashold*, *John Baker*, *John Tully*, and *John Snashold*, were imprisoned six Weeks in a cold Winter Season.

ANNO 1661. *Nicholas Beard* was committed to *Horsham Goal* for Tithes, at the Suit of *Robert Baker*, Priest of *Rottingdean*: After three Months he was removed to the *King's-Bench* Prison at *London*, upon a Demand of 140*l.* for Tithes, though on an Hearing afterward at the Assizes, the Jury determin'd the Parson's real Due to be but 4*l.* 10*s.* In the Month called *February* this Year, *John Shaw* was also imprisoned, at the Suit of *George Davy*, Impropiator.

On the 28th of the Month called *January*, *Moses French*, *Robert Adams*, *Gregory Markwick*, *William Cooke*, and *Edward Herriott*, were taken from a Meeting, and for refusing the Oath of Allegiance, committed to *Horsham Goal*. At the next Assizes, about five Weeks after, they were turned out of Prison without any legal Procedure against them.

ANNO 1662. *John Shaw*, then in Prison for 4*s.* 8*d.* demanded for Tithes by the Priest of *Thacham*, had taken from him four Cows and a Calf worth 18*l.* And in the same Year, four Steers valued at 13*l.* were taken from him for Tithes, by *Isaac Pearson*, an Impropiator of *Shipley*. *Edward Taylor*, for Tithes, had two fat Oxen taken away worth 17*l.* 10*s.* And *Thomas Tax*, for a Claim of 16*s.* for Tithes, had a Cow taken away worth 4*l.* 10*s.*

Exorbitant was the Seizure made last Year on *Abraham Crittenden*, of *Warbleton*, who for a Claim of three Years Tithe of a Farm of 35*l.* per Annum, which had formerly paid a Yearly Composition of 2*l.* 14*s.* had taken from him by *Richard Weller*, Priest of the said Parish, four Milch Kine worth

worth 19^l. one Pair of Oxen worth 12^l. 10^s. one Mare valued at 5^l. 10^s. and forty Sheep and Lambs worth 15^l. amounting in all to 52^l.

In this Year *John Blackfan*, of *Stanning*, was committed to *Horsbām Goal* on a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, after a Prosecution in the Ecclesiastical Court for refusing to pay towards the Repairs of the Steeple-house.

On the 28th of the Month called *May*, was a Meeting at the House of *Thomas Luxford*, of *Hurst-Pier-Point*, out of which, or in the Street as they were going Home, were taken and sent to *Horsbām Goal*, *Henry Scrase*, *Richard Scrase*, *Nicholas Beard*, *William Holben*, *Richard Webb*, *James Matthew*, and *Ambrose Galloway*. At the next Affizes they were all fined and recommitted to Prison, where *Nicholas Beard* and *William Holben* lay two Months, *Henry Scrase* and *Richard Scrase* fourteen Months, and *Ambrose Galloway*, *Richard Webb* and *James Matthew* near four Years.

Ambrose Rigg was committed to Prison by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

“ To the Keeper of his Majesty’s Goal at *Horsbām*.

“ *Suffex* *js*.

“ WE fend you herewithal the Body of *Ambrose Rigg*, being this Day brought before us for being at an unlawful Assembly or Conventicle, and having refused to take the Oath of Allegiance, according to Law tendered to him. These are therefore, in his Majesty’s Name, to will and require you, at the Sight hereof, to take and receive the Body of the said *Ambrose Rigg* into your Goal, and him safe keep till he shall thence be delivered by due Order of his Majesty’s Laws: Hereof fail not, as you will answer the Contrary at your Peril. Given under our Hands and Seals at *Hurst-Pier-Point*, the 28th of *May* 1662, in the fourteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King *Charles the Second*.

SUSSEX
1662

Excommunic-
cation. addit

Fines and
Imprisonments
for Meeting.

Mittimus of
A. Rigg for
refusing to
swear.

“ *NISALL RYVERS*,

“ *WALTER BURRELL*,

“ *RICHARD BRIDGER*.

At the next Affizes he was indicted, tried immediately, and had Sentence of *Premunire* passed upon him; by which he was adjudged to lose all his Lands and Tenements during Life, and his Goods and Chattels for ever, to be out of the Protection of the Law, and to suffer Imprisonment during the King’s Pleasure. Upon that Sentence he was kept in Prison ten Years, four Months, and some Days.

On the 30th of *November*, *Nicholas Rickman*, *Edward Hamper*, *William Turner*, *Tristram Martin*, *John Ludgater*, and *John Beale*, were taken out of a Meeting at *Arundel*, and committed to *Horsbām Goal*: At the next Sessions those six, together with *Henry Woolyer*, *Richard Clarrington*, *John King*, *Richard Lamboll*, *John Leonard*, and *John Linsfeld*, were fined and sent to Prison, whence after two Months they were removed to the House of Correction, and detained there three Months longer.

ANNO 1663. In this Year were taken by Distress for Tithes,

From *Joane Scrase* Widow, for 90^l. demanded, twenty
eight Beasts worth
Henry Bennett, of *Weston*, for 9^l. demanded,
Cattle worth
Richard Bonnick, for 3^l. 16^s. demanded, a Cow
worth
Arthur Stanbridge, for 18^l. demanded, four Oxen
and two Cows worth

	l.	s.	d.
123	0	0	
33	0	0	
5	0	0	
33	0	0	
<hr/>			
	194	0	0

Sentence of
Premunire
passed upon
A. Rigg, by
which he lay
ten Years in
Prison.

Prisoners for
Meeting.

Distresses for
Tithes.

SUSSEX?
1663.

Distresses for
Tithes.

Brought over 194 0 0
From *John Tugwell*, for 1 l. demanded, a Cow worth 5 0 0
From *Richard Bonnick*, for 1 l. 5 s. demanded, a fat Hog worth 2 10 0
From *William Garton*, for 1 l. demanded, a Mare worth 5 0 0
Taken 206 10 0
Taken also, at the Suit of *William Priaux*, Priest of *Rusper*,
From *Benjamin Matthew*, for 3 l. demanded, three Cows and a Bullock worth 14 0 0
From *Richard Stanbridge*, for 3 l. demanded, two Cows worth 12 0 0
From *John Steer*, for 8 l. demanded, four Cows and a Calf worth 18 0 0

For 14 l. 0 s. 0 d.

Taken 44 0 0

Sentence of
Premunire.

False Accusa-
tion.

Commitments
from a Meet-
ing at Arun-
del, &c.

Also *Arthur Stanbridge*, for 28 s. demanded by the Priest of *Mulcaster*, had a Mare taken from him worth 6 l.
John Harris, of *Horne*, had three Kine taken from him for Tithe, by the Procurement of the Priest of *Bletchingly*: And *Jane Kempself* Widow, for Tithes of 4 l. Value, had taken from her two Cows worth 8 l. a Lamb worth 9 s. and seven Carriages of Hay with a Cart and two Horses.

In September this Year, *Stephen Eager*, of *Lewis*, was taken by a Warrant from his own House and carried to the Sessions, when the Oath of Allegiance being tendred to, and refused by him, the Justices sent him to Prison, where he lay from Sessions to Sessions, till at length Sentence of *Premunire* was past upon him, under which he lay in Prison a long Time.

About the same Time, *John Snashold*, a Practitioner in Surgery, going into a Friend's House to dress a Woman's Breast, some Soldiers saw and followed him, and violently haling him out of the House, accused him of being at a Conventicle, for which he was committed to Prison, afterward fined, and sent to the House of Correction for three Months.

On the 7th of the Month called *February* the same Year, *Nicholas Rickman*, *Edward Hamper*, *William Turner*, *Tristram Martin*, and *Henry Woolyer*, with *John Snashold*, *William Clayton*, *Richard Newman*, and *John Baker*, were taken out of a Meeting at *Arundel* by a Company of Soldiers armed with drawn Swords and Guns, without the Presence of a Civil Magistrate, and kept at an Inn till a Justice was sent for out of the Country, who committed them to *Horsbam Goal*: At the following Sessions at *Petworth*, *Nicholas Rickman*, *William Turner*, and *Tristram Martin*, were fined 6 l. each, for a second Offence in Meeting together, and were committed to the same House of Correction for six Months: As was *John Snashold* upon the first Offence for three Months. *Edward Hamper*, *Richard Newman*, and *Henry Woolyer*, were severally fined at the same Sessions. It was observed, that the Justice who committed these Persons to Prison, while he seemed earnest in such Prosecutions, had several Casualties which befel him: Once he was very near drowning, and at another Time broke his Shoulder by a Fall. These Accidents the Sufferers looked on as providential Cautions or Warnings to him; but he nevertheless continued in his Course of persecuting till removed by Death about two Years after.

John Blackfan, of *Stenning*, *William Goring*, *Mary Fleet* the Elder, *Mary Fleet* the Younger, and *Henry Bennett*, were prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for absenting from the publick Worship; and the two former were excommunicated: And for the like Cause, the said *Henry Bennett*, and *Thomas Turner*, a Surgeon near *East-Grimsted*, suffered Imprisonment: As did also,

Richard

Richard Snashold and *Thomas Ridgwick*, who had been fined 60*l.* each, for three Months Absence from the National Worship, on the Statute for 20*l.* per Month.

SUSSEX.
1663.

In this Year *John Songburst*, of *Hitchingfield*, was sent to Goal by a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo* for Tithes, at the Suit of *Samuel Eburne*, Priest of that Parish: Also *Richard Newman* was again imprisoned at the Suit of *Charles Blackwell*, Priest of *Stenning*. And *John Smith*, of *Chichester*, for not bearing Arms, had Goods taken from him worth 4*l.*

Sundry Imprisonments.

ANNO 1664. *John Shaw* was again imprisoned near nine Months for Tithes, at the Suit of *Gregory Davy*, Impropiator.

For refusing to pay the Rates made for repairing the Steeple-houses, *Anne Francis* Widow, was committed to Prison by a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*, and there detained from five Fatherless Children left at Home in an helpless Condition: For the same Cause *Thomas Lillington*, of *Petworth*, was excommunicated: *Ambrose Galloway*, of *Lewis*, had his Goods taken away by Distress; and *John Harris*, of *Worib*, for 10*s.* demanded, had a Cow taken from him worth 6*l.*

On the 23d of the Month called *April* this Year, *Richard Newman*, *John Barber*, *Richard Ashby*, and *Robert Gatford*, were taken out of a religious Meeting at the House of *John Blackfan* in *Stenning*, and Surety being given by a Neighbour for their Appearance at the next Quarter Sessions, they appeared accordingly, where the Justices tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and upon Refusal to take it committed them to Prison; whither also, on the 12th of the next Month, were sent, *William Welch*, *Francis Randall*, *Thomas Westover*, *Thomas Parsons*, *John Grover*, and *John Betchley*, who were taken out of a Meeting by Soldiers, and had the Oath tendred them by one Justice only, whose Commitment of them was therefore illegal. They were all discharged at the Affizes except *William Welch*, who was a Stranger, sometimes residing at *London*, and coming to visit a Relation in this County, was casually taken at the Meeting: The Justice, suspicious lest this Man should take Advantage of him for his illegal Procedure, perswaded the Court to tender him the Oath, upon refusing which he was recommitted, and about two Years after had Sentence of *Premunire* past upon him, and was detained in Prison a long Time.

At a Sessions at *Lewis*, about the Time called *Michaelmas* this Year, twelve Persons for refusing to Swear, had Sentence of *Premunire* past upon them, to wit, *Nicholas Beard*, *Richard Scrase*, *Walter Scrase*, *John Wenham*, *William Harrison*, *Thomas Avery*, *John Ellis*, *William Geering*, *William Norton*, *Moses French*, *John Shutter*, and *John Martin*, in Consequence of which they underwent a very long Imprisonment.

Sentence of Premunire.

On the 6th of *September*, *Ambrose Galloway*, then, and long before in Prison, had his Goods taken by Distress for his Wife's Absence from the publick Worship: And for the same Cause, *John Harris* was fined, and had Corn taken away from him: Also *Benjamin Matthew* had a Cow taken from him worth 40*s.*

Distresses.

For refusing to bear Arms, were taken this Year,

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>Thomas Luxford</i> , and a Tenant of his, Goods worth	9	0	0
<i>Mary</i> , Wife of <i>Ambrose Rigg</i> who was then in Prison	0	6	0
<i>John Barber</i> and <i>Nicholas Beard</i> , Goods worth	13	0	0
<i>John Smith</i> , of <i>Chichester</i> ,	7	12	0
	29	18	0

ANNO 1665. At the Sessions held at *Petworth* on the 2d of *October*, the several Persons following were proclaimed by the Sheriff, in order to their being outlaw'd, for their not going to the Parish-Church, viz. *Joane*, Wife of *Richard Snashold*, *Mary*, Wife of *Richard Baker*, *Mary Baker* Spinster, *Elizabeth Baker* Spinster, *John Cradle jun.* and *Joane* his Wife, *Thomas King*, and *Richard*

Proclamations in order to Outlawry.

SUSSEX. *Richard Pannel, all of Thacham; Richard Greenfield, of Chillington; Abraham Prior, of Shipley; Elizabeth, Wife of William Penfold, of Binsted; Edward Constable, of Wisborough-Green; Edward Hamper, of Arundel; Richard Lamboll, John Beale, Richard Charington, and John Linfield, of the same.* There were also presented at the Sessions for the same Offence, *John Shaw, of Shipley; William Garton, of Ifield; Thomas Constable, of Radgwick; and Walter Constable, of Wisborough-Green;* which *Walter* in the last Year had been imprisoned above three Months, and was then discharged, without any just Cause assigned for his Imprisonment.

Grievous
Abuses of the
Prisoners at
Horsham.

We shall next subjoin a brief Narrative of the grievous Abuses some of the Prisoners met with from *John Moorcock*, then Under-goaler at *Horsham*.

This *Moorcock*, about the Month called *January* 1665, having put *Nicholas Beard* into the Common Ward among the rudest of the Prisoners, they grievously abused him, one of them threatening, with many Oaths, to cut his Throat, for which the Goaler did not in the least reprove him, but connived at the Wickedness of his Prisoners, with whom he kept Company in drinking and revelling. *Ambrose Galloway* being in an upper Ward, and hearing his Friend so abused, came down, and desired *Moorcock* not to permit the Prisoners to be so abusive to him: Upon which *Moorcock* fell to beating *Ambrose*, and ordered another wicked Fellow with a long Staff, to knock him down, which he did, and afterward they kickt him with their Feet, so that those who stood by, cried out for fear of Murder. The wicked Goaler to cover this gross Abuse, and for a Pretext to commit more, went into the Town about Eight in the Evening, and spreading a Rumour that his Quaker Prisoners were running away, raises the Captain of the Trained-Bands, and with a Company of rude Fellows, returns to the Prison, where they took *Nicholas Beard* and *Richard Scrase*, and put them into the low Goal: And then coming into the upper Ward, where *Ambrose Rigg* was quietly at his Work, they accused him of preaching, and because he would not promise not to preach any more, they thrust him headlong down the Stairs, and threw him over the Chain into the low Goal, where they put Irons both on him and *Ambrose Galloway*, in which Condition they were kept there eight Days, and must probably have continued much longer, had not the Sheriff himself come to the Prison, who ordered their Irons to be taken off again, restored them to their former Lodging, and displaced the Keeper for his Wickedness.

The said *Nicholas Beard*, while in Prison, for Default of sending a Man to serve in the Trained-Bands, had nine fatting Sheep taken from him worth 5*l*.

Imprisonment
for Tithes.

ANNO 1667. *John Newnham*, of *Warbleton*, was committed to Prison for Tithes, at the Suit of *Richard Waller*, Priest of that Parish.

Distress and
Imprison-
ments.

ANNO 1668. *Henry Mills*, of *Ifield*, had two Oxen and two Horses taken from him, at the Suit of *Henry Hallywell*, Priest of that Parish, and on the 1st of the Month called *May*, was committed to Prison. And in the same Year, *Arthur Stanbridge* and *William Garton* were also committed to Prison, at the Suit of the same Priest.

Distresses for
Tithes.

ANNO 1669. Taken by Distress for Tithes, from *John Bristow*, for a Demand of 1*l*. 12*s*. Goods worth 7*l*. And from *Richard Greenfield*, for 12*l*. demanded, Goods worth 36*l*.

ANNO 1670. *Richard Hogg*, for a Demand of 3*l*. 6*s*. 9*d*. for Tithes, suffered Distress of Goods to the Value of 6*l*. 10*s*. And *Thomas Tax*, for a Claim of 1*l*. 4*s*. had his Goods taken from him worth 3*l*. And on the 15th of September, *James West* was committed to Prison, at the Suit of *Richard Waller*, Priest of *Warbleton*.

False Informa-
tions.

Taken also this Year by Distress, for attending religious Meetings, from *Arthur Stanbridge* and *William Garton*, Goods worth 1*l*. 11*s*.

And at *Lewis*, from *Mary Akehurst*, Goods worth 29*l*. and *Ambrose Galloway*, Goods worth 3*l*. Both of these were upon a false Information; and upon their appealing to Sessions, the Informer, conscious of Perjury, durst not appear, but fled out of Town: So their Goods were ordered to be returned.

Also

Also from *Thomas Mosely, John Ellis, and Stephen Eager*, were taken Goods SUSSEX.
worth 2 l. 6 s. 1671.

	l.	s.	d.	
ANNO 1671. In this Year were taken				
From <i>John Grover</i> , for Meetings at his House at <i>Hurst-</i>	}	21	0	Distresses.
<i>Pier-Point</i> , Goods to the Value of				
And from <i>Arthur Stanbridge</i> , for a Meeting held at the	}	1	15	
House of <i>John Steer</i> , Goods worth				
Also from <i>Ambrose Galloway</i> , Goods to the Value of		0	12	0
		23	7	0

For the same Cause, *Richard King* suffered Distress of three Sheep and three Lambs.

In this Year *Ambrose Galloway* was prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for Absence from the publick Worship, and excommunicated: He was also indicted at the Assizes for the same Cause. Likewise *John Willard*, a Carpenter, dwelling in or near *Petworth*, was excommunicated for refusing to take the Oath of a Churchwarden, to which Office he had been chosen. In the same Year *Ambrose Galloway*, of *Lewis*, was committed to Prison, at the Suit of *William Kemp*, of *Malling*, Impropiator; as had been some Time before, *Elias Ellis*, of *Warbleton*, at the Suit of *Richard Waller*, Priest there.

Prosecutions
for Absence
from the
publick Wor-
ship.
Excommuni-
cation.
Imprisonment.

ANNO 1672. In this Year fifteen of the People called Quakers, then Prisoners in the Common Goal for this County, were set at Liberty by Letters Patent of King *Charles the Second*, comprehending a free Pardon to as many of the said People as lay confined at the King's Suit. The Names of those so discharged in this County were, *Ambrose Rigg, Nicholas Beard, Richard Scrase, Walter Scrase, John Shutter, William Geering, Moses French, Thomas Avery, John Martin, John Ellis, Stephen Eager, Richard Newnham, Richard Green, Clement Loveder, and George Upton*.

Release of
Prisoners.

ANNO 1673 *Thomas Mosely*, of the *Clist* near *Lewis*, was prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes, at the Suit of *Thomas Clarke*, Priest of that Parish, who himself sat as Judge of the Court. The Process was carried on to Excommunication, which the Priest published from the Pulpit in September this Year, and gave out, that he would quickly have the said *Thomas Mosely* in *Horsbam* Goal: But his Purpose was prevented by his own Death about two Months after.

Prosecution of
T. Mosely,

Nicholas Beard, of *Rottingdean*, for a Claim of Tithes made by *Robert Baker*, Priest of that Parish, had taken from him by the said Priest's Agents, on the 29th of the Month called *March*, sixteen Lambs and an Hundred Fleeces of Wool; and on the 31st of the Month called *July*, seven more Lambs: In the Month called *August*, he was subpœna'd into the *Exchequer* at the Suit of the same Priest, where he appeared, and prepared his Answer, but refusing to Swear to it, an Attachment was granted against him, by which he was committed to the County Goal at *Horsbam*, and remained there fifteen Months. From thence he was removed to the *King's-Bench* Prison, where he continued above a Year after.

and N. Beard.

On the 28th of November, *Thomas Herriott* and *John Grover*, both of *Hurst-Pier-Point*, were subpœna'd into the *Exchequer*, at the Suit of *Leonard Letchford*, Priest of that Parish: But the Prosecution in a short Time ceased by the Death of the said Priest, who went to Bed at Night in seeming Health, but was found dead in his Bed the next Morning.

Exchequer
Prosecution.
Sudden Death
of a perse-
cuting Priest.

Nicholas Beard, James West, John Ellis, Maschal Picknall, Thomas Wilson, Moses French, Daniel Akeburst, and others, taken in a Meeting at *Hastings*, were by the Mayor and his Attendants haled out, and imprisoned for some Time in the *Town-hall*, and the said *Daniel Akeburst* was put into a nasty Hole called the *Dark-house*, where they used to put condemned Persons. At length, the

Sufferings for
Meeting.

SUSSEX. Mayor fined them 5 s. each, and for the Payment of those Fines caused Nicholas Beard's Horse to be taken away which was worth 5 l.

In this Year Elias Ellis of Warbleton, and Mary his Wife, Tristram Martin of Arundel and his Wife, and John Cucknall of the same Place, and his Wife, were prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court, and excommunicated, for cohabiting as married Persons, because they had not conformed to the Ceremonies of the Church of England in that Behalf; but had publickly declared their Marriage in another Form.

Richard Stevens and Benjamin Mosely, both of Lewis, for keeping their Shops open on the Day called Christmas-day, and other Holidays, so called, had their Windows broke, their Goods thrown into the Street, and much damaged by the rude and insolent Rabble, hurried on by an ignorant Zeal to do Mischief, being sometimes animated thereto by those who should have used their Authority to restrain them.

On the 5th of October, William Snatt, a Priest, and Robert Smith Taylor, Informers, gave Information of a Meeting at the House of Thomas Mosely in or near Lewis, for which, and for a Preacher to them unknown, Thomas Mosely was fined 23 l. Nicholas Beard 10 l. Mary Akehurst Widow, 7 l. 5 s. Ambrose Galloway, Elizabeth Shutter, and others, 5 s. each.

On the 10th of the same Month, the said Priest William Snatt, with James Clark a Register of the Ecclesiastical Court, and one Walter Jones, gave Information of a Meeting at the * House of Mary Galloway, for which were taken by Distress

		l.	s.	d.
Distresses for Meeting.	From Thomas Mosely, for 9 l. 15 s. Fine, Goods worth	12	6	8
	Ambrose Galloway, for 10 l. 5 s. Fine, Goods worth	14	5	0
	Mary Akehurst, for 8 l. 10 s. Fine, Goods worth	16	18	10
	Samuel Baker, of Newhaven, for 6 l. 18 s. 4 1/2 d. Fine, a Tun of Iron worth	7	0	0

For Fines of 35 l. 8 s. 4 1/2 d. Taken 50 10 6

From Elizabeth Shutter Widow, they took two Looking-Glasses: Stephen Eager and others, were also fined for being at the said Meeting.

Abuses at Lewis Meeting.

On the 17th of the same Month, Snatt the Priest, Clark, and one William Purser, Informers, with two Constables, a Lieutenant, an Ensign, and two Serjeants of the Militia, and a Rabble of People, came with great Violence, and dragged the Friends out of their Meeting-house at Lewis, beating and bruising many, and shedding the Blood of some. Clark, one of the Informers, behaved so rudely, that many of the Spectators cried Shame of him. Upon the Information of those Men given to Nisall Rivers, a Justice of the Peace, a Warrant was granted for Distress, by which were taken,

		l.	s.	d.
Distresses for that Meeting.	From Ambrose Galloway, Shop-goods worth	18	7	0
	Thomas Mosely, Goods worth	12	5	0
	John Ellis, Goods to the Value of	7	8	0
	Thomas Budd, a poor Shepherd, great Part of his Household Goods, for	1	5	0
	Thomas Robinson, eight Hats, for	1	0	0
	Mary Akehurst, Goods worth	0	18	0
	Stephen and Nicholas Maynard, Goods worth	1	4	0
	Maschall Picknall, four Rolls of Cloth, for	0	5	0
	Henry Gates, a Brass Kettle, for	0	5	0
		42	17	0

Some

* The same House which the informing Priest had before sworn to be Thomas Mosely's.

Some of these Fines were for raising 20*l.* imposed on *John Songburst* for Preaching, and 20*l.* for the House the Meeting was in: There were also fined for the same Meeting, *Richard Scrase*, *John Scrase*, *Edward Paine*, *Thomas Banks*, and others, some 50*s.* and some 20*s.* each.

SUSSEX.
1673.

On the 24th of the same Month, they drew the Friends out of the Meeting-house, abusing many of them with Blows, and setting a Guard to keep them out: Then one of the Informers demanded of *Mary Galloway* 5*s.* for which they took away seventeen new Deal Forms which cost near 3*l.* Thus for four Weeks together they continued to keep them out of their Meeting-house with Soldiers, forcing them to meet in the Street. They also took from the said *Mary Galloway*, for another Fine of 5*s.* a new Settle and five Deal Boards worth 20*s.* though neither of those Goods, nor the other, were any of hers; but the rapacious Informers took what came to their Hands, without Regard to Right or Property.

More Persecution at Lewis

In this and the preceding Year, *William Geering* was a Prisoner in *Horsbath* Goal about eighteen Months, on an *Exchequer* Process for Tithes, at the Suit of *Charles Blackwell*, Priest, during which Time he also suffered Distresses for Tithes, to the Value of 3*l.* 14*s.*

Sufferings of
W. Geering

The Widow *Isted*, of *Warbleton*, had taken from her for 1*l.* 19*s.* claimed for Tithes by *Richard Waller*, Priest of that Parish, a Cow worth 4*l.*

Distress for
Tithes.

In the same Year *Richard Hayler*, of *Stenning*, had taken from him for Tithes claimed by *Charles Blackwell*, Priest of *Stenning*, eight Lambs worth 4*l.* being twice the Value of his legal Demand. The said Priest's Wife, and her Servants, also illegally milked the said *Richard Hayler's* Cows. And in the same Year *Henry Stalman*, an Impropriator, took from the said *Richard*, several Kinds of Grain to the Value of 8*l.* 15*s.*

Sufferings of
R. Hayler.

ANNO 1675. At the Assizes, held at *East-Grinstead* in the Month called *July* this Year, *Richard Hogg*, of *Ifield*, who had some Time before been imprisoned eleven Weeks at *Horsbath*, and then removed by *Habeas Corpus* to *London*, was cast on a Trial for treble Damages, at the Suit of *Arthur Weller*, Tithe-farmer, who obtained a Verdict against him for 21*l.* 9*s.* for which an Execution was served on his Cattle, Corn, and other Goods, to the Value of 30*l.* 10*s.*

Sufferings for
Tithes.

ANNO 1676. Taken for Tithes claimed by *Henry Heskett*, Priest of *Charlewood*, from *Moses Gbandler* for 27*s.* two Hogs worth 4*l.* 10*s.* And from *Thomas Tax*, for a Claim of 3*l.* 12*s.* a Cow worth 4*l.* 10*s.*

Sundry Dis-
tresses for
Tithes.

Edward Taylor had also taken from him by the same Priest for Tithes, four fatting Oxen worth 28*l.* 10*s.*

And for Tithes claimed by *Henry Hallywell*, Priest of *Ifield*, were taken from *Richard Dunton*, for 8*l.* demanded, an Ox and a Steer worth 9*l.* And from *Arthur Stanbridge*, for the like Demand, two Oxen and a Bull worth 16*l.* 5*s.*

Jane Dunton Widow, had taken from her for Tithes, by the Agents of the same Priest, a Cow worth 3*l.* 10*s.*

John Bristow, for a Demand of about 4*l.* had taken from him at the Suit of *John Bonwick*, Priest of *Nudigate*, for Tithes, two Cows and a Runt worth 9*l.* 15*s.*

Moses French, of *Haylsbam*, for a Demand of 3*l.* 18*s.* for Tithes claimed by *John Wenham*, Priest of that Parish, had taken from him two Bullocks worth 8*l.*

On the 5th of September this Year, an Information was given on Oath by *Thomas Levett* Priest, *Michael Harman* Smith, and *George Shepherd* Taylor, Informers, to *Sackvil Graves*, a Justice of the Peace; that several Persons, whom those Informers named, were at a Meeting in the House of *William Yokeburst*, in the Parish of *West-Furl* near *Lewis*, on the 23d of the Month called *July* then last past, for which the said Justice fined *Clement Pucknall* for preaching at the said Meeting 40*l.* and *William Yokeburst*, for suffering a Meeting at his House, 20*l.* and thirty one other Persons, Hearers, some 10*s.* others 5*s.* each, to be levied, by reason of their Poverty, on *Ambrose Galloway*

Information of
a Meeting.

Fines imposed.

SUSSEX. Galloway 10l. 10s. Mary Akeburst 10l. John Ellis 10l. Thomas Weeks 9l. 10s. John Abrook 9l. 10s. John Longly 8l. 10s. William Yokeburst 2l. 10s. Maschal Picknall 4l. and for two others, Thomas Banks and Sibyl Paine, (though she was not at the Meeting) 20s. for which two last Fines, amounting to 5l. was taken from the said Maschal Picknall a Mare worth 8l. On Samuel Baker 2l. 5s. Richard Hudson 5s. And for the Poverty of ten others 5s. each, for which Fines of 2l. 15s. they took from him a Cow and a Calf worth 4l. 5s. The said Richard Hudson knowing that the Informers had sworn falsely, and that several of the Persons fined were not at the Meeting, appealed to the Quarter Sessions, where it was made appear, that four Persons sworn against were not there, and that one of them was dead six Years before, whereupon the Court ordered 20s. to be returned him for those four Fines. But though this Appeal was tried, and the Falseness of these Informations proved before seven Justices on the Bench, yet not one of them was heard to give the least Reproof to the Informers for their false Evidence.

Manifest Falseness of Informers not reproved by the Justices.

Amount of Fines in 11 Months.

Distress on A. Galloway.

On the 12th of the same Month, for a Meeting at Lewis, John Ellis was fined 10l. 5s. Thomas Masjely 10l. 5s. Henry Scrase 10l. 5s. and some others 5s. each. The Sum of the Fines imposed on the said People at or near Lewis, in about eleven Months Time, amounted to 252l. 15s. besides the Spoil made on their Goods by the Informers.

At another Time Jones and Purser, Informers, deposed before William Spence, a Justice of the Peace, that Ambrose Galloway was at a Meeting in Lewis, where were two Preachers; upon which the Justice imposed on the said Ambrose a Fine of 10l. for a Preacher, and 5s. for himself; and on the 26th of December, several Officers, with a Warrant from the said Justice, came into the Shop, which had been the said Ambrose Galloway's, but was then occupied by his Son, who was not at the Meeting, and breaking open the Counter and a Press, took away Clothes ready made, and other Goods, to the Value of 20l. 5s. 11d.

The usual Manner of the Informers Proceedings at Lewis, is well exprest in the following Words, viz.

The usual Manner of Informers at Lewis.

“ We have our Houses and Shops plundered, and our Goods torn from us by the Hands of malicious Informers, who serve themselves upon our Goods, and colour it over with a Pretence of Law, so that they have taken double and treble, and sometimes six or seven Times the Value of the Fines imposed: And for Evidence that a Fine is imposed, some of us have nothing but the Word of an Informer to prove it is so, they refusing to let us see the Warrant, or let us have a Copy of it, levying the Fines they say were imposed, sometimes six Months or eight Months after Conviction, if there were any such Conviction as they pretend. These Informers knowing the late Act allows of no Appeal, except the Sum charged exceeds ten Shillings, so that thereby they take Advantage to swear against many Persons that were not at these Meetings, knowing that this late Act yields us no Relief in such a Case, so that they take Goods what they please, and to what Value they please, and sell it for what they please, and keep what they please for themselves, and say they can take more when they please, making no Appraisement, nor giving any Account to Justices, Court, or Country. So that we know not when this Law is satisfied.”

Imprisonments.

In this Year Arthur Stanbridge, Henry Mills, and William Garton, all of Ifield, were committed to Prison, being arrested at the Suit of Thomas Washford, of Ifield, Clerk, with Intent to proceed against them on the Statute of Queen Elizabeth for 20l. per Month: But after they had been Prisoners about twenty Days, those who prosecuted them relented, dropt the Prosecution and set them at Liberty.

Excommunications.

Nicholas Beard, of Falmer, and his Wife, and Nicholas his Son, were summoned to appear in the Ecclesiastical Court for not coming to their Parish Church,

Church, and were all of them excommunicated. And for the same Cause, *Ambrose Galloway*, *Elizabeth* his Wife, *Ambrose* their Son, and *Elizabeth* their Daughter, were presented in the Ecclesiastical Court, and the said *Ambrose* the Son, was prosecuted to an Excommunication, which was published at a Time when he was gone beyond Sea.

SUSSEX.
1676.

ANNO 1677. *Thomas Mosely*, *John Ellis*, and *Mary Akehurst*, were prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes, at the Suit of *William Snatt*, Priest: They were all afterwards excommunicated, and by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo committed to *Horsham* Goal, and kept close Prisoners about a Year, till removed to the *King's-Bench* on the 11th of *November* 1678, though none of them had any Thing usually tithable.

Prosecutions
for Tithes,

In this Year *Jane Dunton* Widow, had again taken from her a Cow worth 4*l.* And *Arthur Stanbridge* a Cow worth 4*l.* for Tithes, by the Agents of *Henry Hallywell*, Priest of *Ifield*. Also *Thomas Tax* suffered Distress of a Cow worth 4*l.* And *Moses Chandler* had two Bullocks worth 5*l.* 15*s.* taken for Tithes claimed by *Henry Hefket*, Priest of *Charlewood*. Likewise *Moses French*, of *Haylsbam*, for a Demand of 4*l.* for Tithes, had two Steers worth 12*l.* taken from him, at the Suit of *John Fuller*, Impropiator.

Thomas Shepherd, for refusing to pay toward the Repairs of the Steeple-house at *Arundel*, was prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court, and excommunicated.

and for
Steeple-house
Rates.

For a Meeting at the House of *Joane Apse* in *Shoreham*, on the 10th of the Month called *July*, were taken

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
From <i>John Martin</i> , of <i>Stenning</i> , Shop-goods worth	17	18	9	Distresses for Meetings,
<i>Richard Newman</i> , of <i>Weston</i> , an Heifer worth	3	0	0	
<i>William Parker</i> , of <i>Stenning</i> , Sheep and Lambs worth	2	15	0	
<i>Henry Vaggar</i> , a Cow worth	3	0	0	
<i>Jacob Knowles</i> , Goods worth	0	5	0	
	26	18	9	

ANNO 1678. In this Year were taken for Tithes, from *Arthur Stanbridge*, *John Kempfall*, *John Bristow*, *William Garton*, *John Humphry*, and *Henry Mills*, Cattle and other Things to the Value of 58*l.* 5*s.*

and for Tithes.

On the 29th of *September*, *Thomas Robinson*, of the *Clift* near *Lewis*, was excommunicated in Consequence of a Process against him for Tithes in the Ecclesiastical Court, at the Promotion of *William Snatt*, Priest.

Excommunica-
tions.

Nicholas Rickman and *Edward Hamper*, both of *Arundel*, were excommunicated for not paying an Assessment of about 17*d.* charged on each of them towards repairing the Steeple-house of that Place.

ANNO 1679. *Richard Hayler*, of *Stenning*, was excommunicated at the Suit of the Wardens of that Place, and imprisoned about ten Weeks. In the next Year, he being Executor to a Will, was not admitted to prove the same by reason of his being excommunicate, and the Administration, without his Consent, was granted to other Persons.

Elias Ellis being prosecuted for Tithes, at the Suit of *Richard Waller*, Priest of *Warbleton*, the Cause was brought to Trial at the Assizes at *East-Grinstead*, on the 28th of the Month called *March* this Year, on the Statute for treble Damages, when for a Claim of 4*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* the Priest obtained a Verdict for 12*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* for which an Execution was served on the said *Elias*, and his Cattle were taken away to the Value of 19*l.* 5*s.*

Prosecutions
for Tithes.

On the 21st of *November*, *Thomas Herriot*, of *Hurst-Pier-Point*, after long Imprisonment for Tithes, at the Suit of *Manred Shaw*, Priest of that Parish, had an Execution served on him, by which his Cattle were taken away to the Value of 25*l.*

William Beard, of *Brighelmstone*, for refusing to pay 1*s.* for the Steeple-house Rate, was prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court to an Excommunication, which was published against him by *Henry Snook* Priest, at *Brighelmstone*.

Excommunica-
tion.

SUSSEX. ANNO 1680. Taken this Year by Distress for Tithes,
1680.

		l.	s.	d.
From	Moses Chandler, three Steers worth	6	0	0
Distresses for	Mary Taylor, two Oxen worth	14	0	0
Tithes.	John Kempfall, a Pair of Oxen worth	10	0	0
	John Humphry, seven Oxen and four Cows worth	30	0	0
		60	0	0

Not long before this Time, *Ambrose Galloway*, on Pretence of his being indicted at the Assizes, and for a Fine said to be imposed on him for Neglect of coming to his Parish-Church three Sundays, had taken from him three Yards and a Quarter of Serge worth 8 s. although he had never been served with any Process or Summons to appear at the Assizes in order to his Defence.

ANNO 1681. On the 14th of the Month called *May*, *Henry Mills*, for 4 l. demanded for Tithes by *Gervas Fullwood*, Priest of *Rusper*, had taken from him a Pair of Steers worth 6 l.

On the 24th of the same Month, *Aribur Stanbridge* had taken from him for Tithes, for *Walter Moor*, Priest of *Ifield*, two Cows and a Calf worth 8 l. 10 s.

On the 19th of September, *Elizabeth Tax* Widow, for a Demand of 40 s. for Tithe, and 10 s. for a Mortuary, claimed by *Henry Hesket*, Priest of *Charlewood*, had taken from her two Cows worth 5 l. 10 s.

Mary Taylor, for about 7 l. 10 s. demanded by the same Priest, had taken from her two fatting Oxen, one fatting Cow, and a young Heifer, worth 15 l. 10 s.

Moses Chandler, for one Year's Tithe valued at 40 s. had taken from him for the Use of the same Priest, a Cow and two other Beasts worth 6 l.

John Bristow, for a Year's Tithe valued at 40 s. had taken from him for *John Bonwick*, Priest of *Nudigate*, a fatting Cow worth 3 l. 15 s.

Thomas Humphry, for two Year's Tithe valued at 5 l. 10. was seized on by Bayliffs, who took away, at the Suit of *Henry Hesket*, the aforesaid Priest of *Charlewood*, two fatting Steers worth 8 l. 5 s.

John Humphry, of *Charlewood*, for two Year's Tithes, valued at 18 l. had taken from him for the aforesaid Priest, four Oxen and four Calves worth 30 l.

John Fowler, of *Willington*, for about 16 s. demanded for Tithes, was prosecuted in the Hundred Court, and had taken from him on a Judgment, by two Bayliffs, at the Suit of *Sir Robert Parker*, Impropiator, a Cow worth 5 l. which they sold for 50 s.

Imprisonment
of H. Gates
at the Suit of
Arch-deacon
Henshaw.

The Arch-dea-
con being sick,
ordered his
Release, which
after his Death
was done.

On the 22d of the Month called *August*, *Henry Gates*, of *Pain's-place* in the Parish of *Cuckfield*, was arrested at the Suit of *Tobias Henshaw*, an Arch-deacon, for Tithes: The Bayliffs carried him the same Day to Prison: The Arch-deacon, after the Man's Imprisonment, relented, and often said, *He would not have imprisoned him, but for fear others should follow his Example, and likewise refuse to pay Tithes.* A short Time after the Arch-deacon was sick, and several Times in his Sickness gave strict Orders, that if he should die, *Henry Gates* should be set at Liberty. On the 9th Day of *December* following he died, and on the 17th the Priest of *Ridgwick* came to the Prison, and told the Goaler, that *He was ordered by the Arch-deacon on his Death-bed to see Henry Gates set at Liberty, and said, He himself would be the Goaler's Warrant for so doing.* The Goaler told him, *The Quakers would pay no Fees.* The Priest replied, *What shall we do then?* So the Goaler detained him about fourteen Days longer for Fees, and then gave him Liberty to go Home, and told him, *He could not be discharged, till he had an Absolution from the Bishop, and the Court wherein he was prosecuted.* So that though he was permitted to go at large, yet he remained a Prisoner, subject to be recalled at the Goaler's Pleasure.

For 13 d.
Tithe, taken
by Sequestra-
tion 69 l. 9 s.
10 d.

John Willard, of *Bar-Lavington*, was prosecuted for about 13 d. demanded for Tithes, at the Suit of *Thomas Thornton*, Priest of that Parish, and had taken from him by a Sequestration, in Corn, Cattle, and Household Goods, to the Value of 69 l. 9 s. 10 d.

In

In September this Year, Richard Hayler, of Stenning, for Tithes demanded by Richard Vaughan, Priest of that Parish, had taken from him four fat Runts, and four fat Heifers, worth 34*l.*

SUSSEX.
1681.

At a General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, holden at Stenning on the 9th and 10th of the Month called January 1681, at which Sir George Jefferies was Chairman, eleven Prisoners, namely, Jacob Knowles, Thomas Snashall, Edward Blackfan, John Martin, Edward Hamper, John Smith, James Ludgater, William Langford, Nicholas Rickman, John Martin jun. and Thomas Shepherd, were severally indicted for three Weeks Absence from the Church. They were fined 3*s.* each, and for refusing to pay the same, were committed to Prison.

Distress for
Tithes.

Indictment of
11 Persons for
Absence from
the National
Worship.

At the Assizes at Horsham, Thomas Snashall of Bedding, William Penn of Worthingburst, Jacob Knowles of Stenning, Edward Blackfan, William Geering, and Mary his Wife, John Martin, Mary Fleet Spinster, Henry Vaggar, Richard Hayler, and Jane his Wife, Thomas List, and Mary Nye, which last ten were also of Stenning, Humphry Killingbeck of Boldney, Thomas Parsons of Slangham, Thomas Parsons of Cowfold, Francis Randal of Hurst-Pier-Point, John Snashall of the same, John Shaw of Shipley, and Nicholas Beard of Falmer, were indicted for Absence from the National Worship.

Indictments at
the Assizes.

On the 15th of the Month called July, Benjamin Mosely of Lewis, and Margery Parker of Stenning, were indicted at Sessions for Absence from the Church, and because they would not enter into Recognizance to traverse the Indictment, were committed to Prison, where Benjamin Mosely continued about a Quarter of a Year.

Imprison-
ments.

On the 3d of October, William Garton, Arthur Stanbridge jun. and John Steer, were by Order of the Sessions held at Midhurst, committed to Horsham Goal, on an Indictment for Absence from the Church.

ANNO 1682. Ambrose Galloway, of Lewis, for 19*s.* 9*d.* Fine for refusing to bear Arms, or hire a Soldier to serve in the Trained-Bands, had taken from him by Distress, a Piece of Shalloon to the Value of 40*s.*

Distress for
the Trained-
Bands,

Richard Hayler, of Stenning, had taken from him in Time of Harvest, for Tithes claimed by Richard Taylor, Impropiator, a full fifth Part of his whole Year's Increase.

William Garton, of Ifield, had taken from him for Tithes claimed by John Wickin, Impropiator, two young Cows worth 6*l.*

and for Tithes.

Richard Benge had a Cow taken away worth 3*l.* for Tithes, by Order of William Hill, of Rusper.

About the 11th of December, several Distresses were made for Tithes claimed by Henry Hesket, Priest of Charlewood, viz.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From Thomas Humphry and Henry Wright, for 4 <i>l.</i> demanded, Goods worth	14	0	0
The Widow Tax, for 1 <i>l.</i> 4 <i>s.</i> demanded, a Cow worth	2	15	0
The Widow Taylor, for 4 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> demanded, two Oxen and a Cow worth	12	0	0
Moses Chandler, for 2 <i>l.</i> demanded, a Steer and a Bull worth	5	0	0
For 11 <i>l.</i> 14 <i>s.</i> demanded,	Taken	33	15 0

More Dis-
tresses for
Tithes.

William Garton had taken from him by John Wickin, Impropiator, a Pair of Steers worth 9*l.* 10*s.*

At a Quarter Sessions at Chichester, Edward Luckins and Benjamin Matthews were indicted for three Weeks Absence from their Parish-Church, fined 3*s.* each, and for Non-payment committed to Horsham Goal.

Proceedings at
Chichester
Quarter Ses-
sions.

Many of this People were committed to Prison about this Time at a Quarter Sessions, where Sir George Jefferies was Chairman; but not long after, the following Letter was sent to the Goaler by one of the Justices, viz.

“ Mr.

SUSSEX.
1682.

A Letter to
the Goaler.

“ Mr. BRYAN,

“ I Yesterday received a Letter from Sir George Jefferies, who was Judge of the Court, by whom the Quakers that are under your Custody were committed, to this Effect : That they might have all the lawful Favour that could be shewed.

“ Therefore my Desire to you is, to give them what Liberty you can without Danger to your self, which if it can be granted them, I will pass my Word for their Return at what Time soever you remand them : Which is all at present from

“ Your Friend,

“ HENRY GORING.”

This Letter shews, that the acting Justices against this People, were sometimes conscious of their Innocence, and sensible of the Injustice they inflicted on them.

Distresses for
several Causes.

In this Year John Grover, for his Absence from the National Worship, suffered several Distresses to the Value of 1 l. 15 s. 6 d. And William Bennett, to the Amount of 16 s. 6 d.

For a Meeting at Lewis, on the 10th of October, were taken,

	l.	s.	d.
From Ambrose Galloway the Elder, Goods worth	14	6	0
Thomas Robinson, for his Wife	0	12	6
Thomas Mosely and Thomas Akehurst	12	3	4
	27	1	10

Three War-
rants issued
for one Meet-
ing.

Falshood of
Informers.

Indictments at
Sessions.

Private Con-
victions and
Fines.

It happened in December this Year, that John Eresby and Samuel Astie, Informers, went to three several Justices of the Peace, and gave Information to every of them separately, of a Meeting at Lewis, so that they severally issued three several Warrants for Distress for one and the same Meeting. By one of which Warrants, Thomas Robinson had eighty Hats taken from him worth 13 l. 19 s. but he appealed to the Sessions, and upon an Hearing of the Case, had his Goods returned. The same Informers swore that Thomas Akehurst was at two Meetings, when indeed he was not at either of them, as could be fully proved by substantial Evidence. Whereupon the Informers were indicted for Perjury at Lewis Sessions, when the Grand Jury found the Bill against them, but to evade a Trial at the next Sessions, they brought a Writ of Certiorari, and removed the Cause out of that Court.

On the 12th of the Month called January, at a Sessions in Lewis, Henry Gates, Ambrose Galloway, Thomas Mosely, Ralph Akehurst, Benjamin Mosely, Nicholas Beard, John Ellis, and Elizabeth Robinson, were indicted for being at Meetings, and also on the Statute of 35 Q. Elizabeth, for not coming to Church : As were also, for nine Months Absence from Church, on the same Statute, Thomas Robinson, Ambrose Galloway jun. Ruth Galloway, Thomas Beard, Mary Akehurst, Thomas Akehurst, Alexander Akehurst, and Jane Kidder.

Maschall Picknall of Willington, and Edward Herriott of the same Place, were taken by two Bayliffs, and carried to the Assizes at East-Grinstead, on the 26th of the Month called February, having been before indicted on three Indictments for not coming to Church : The Clerk of the Peace, named Lee, so ordered the Matter, that they were not brought into Court, but privately convicted and fined, and sent to Horsham Goal, where they remained about a Month, till the High Sheriff, who was their Neighbour, sent an Order to the Goaler to let them have Liberty, and he would see them forth coming at the Assizes ; so they were enlarged, though against the Mind of the Clerk of the Peace, who had been heard to say, That he would send Maschall Picknall to Goal,

Goal, and that he should lie there till he rotted, if he did not pay him his SUSSEX. Fees. 1682.

At the aforefaid Affizes, *Ambrose Galloway*, and his Son of the same Name, *Benjamin Mosely*, *Nicholas Beard*, and *Thomas Parsons*, and about fourteen others dwelling near *Ifield*, were presented by the Grand Jury for not going to Church. And about the same Time, Writs were issued out of the Court of *Exchequer* on former Presentments, upon the Statute for 20*l.* per Month, for three Months each, against *Thomas Parsons*, of *Patchgate*, and his Wife, *Thomas Snashall* and his Wife, and *Nicholas Beard*.

Jane Eager was also convicted on an Indictment for three Months Absence from Church.

ANNO 1683. On the 16th of the Month called *April*, *William Brown* and *Thomas Brown* were committed to *Horsham Goal* from the Sessions at *Chichester*, for refusing to be bound to traverse an Indictment laid against them for a Month's Absence from Church.

On the 9th of the Month called *July*, a Company of Soldiers, who quartered at *Chichester*, came into the Meeting there, and broke in pieces the Glass-Windows, Tables, Forms, and Benches, and behaved themselves rudely and immodestly, cursing and swearing, and using filthy and debauched Language. At length they dragged the Assembly by Force out of the Place.

On the 16th, Warrants for Distress were granted upon the Informations of *John Newton* and *Henry Halsted*, of *Chichester*, by which were taken,

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
From <i>Richard Carter</i> , in Money	4	5	0	} Distresses for Meeting.
<i>Robert Norris</i> , three Hundred and twenty Deal Boards, a Feather-bed, three Bolsters, three Blankets, and other Goods, worth	20	0	0	
<i>Margery Wilkinson</i> , Goods worth	5	0	0	
<i>Richard Green</i> , a poor Smith, two Hogs, his Bed, Bedding, Vice, Sledges, and Iron, worth	4	10	0	
	33	15	0	

On the 29th of the same Month, and on the 5th and 12th of the next, the Informers and Soldiers came again to the Meetings at *Chichester*, and behaved after their usual Manner, breaking the Forms, and threatening and abusing those that were met.

On the 23d of the Month called *August*, *Newton*, the Informer, came into the Meeting-house, haled the Friends out, brake the Seats, and pulled off the Tiles, and grievously abused the Persons assembled, he being drunk: And indeed it was usual with the Informers to drown their Senses with Strong-liquor, that they might be the fitter to execute their inhumane and wicked Purposes. On the 26th of the same Month, the same Informer came again to the Meeting, dragged out the Friends, and threw down and abused one of them, threatening to pull down the House.

For being at one of the aforefaid Meetings, *Richard Green*, of *Burdham* in the Hundred of *Maynard*, had Bedding and other Household Goods, also a Load of Vetches, taken from him, amounting to 10*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

In *September* and *October* this Year, the Meetings at *Chichester* were harrafs'd by the Informers *Newton* and *Halsted*, constant Abusers of this innocent People: They several Times broke the Windows and Doors of the House, and the Door of the Burying-ground, pulling down and burning the Fence which was round it, and laying the Burying-ground open to the Highway, and as fast as the Friends repaired any Thing, they would destroy it again at the next Meeting. They stuffed up the Door-place, after they had taken away the Door, with Bushes, and thrust Bushes against the Friends Legs, tore a Woman's Scarf from her Neck, and after many Abuses, dared them to make Complaint to the Magistrates. They threw Squibs of Gunpowder into the Meeting, to

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the Danger of firing the House, which was covered with Thatch: And all those Injuries and Abuses were generally accompanied with Curfing and Swearing, the drunken Informers sometimes bringing with them a Rabble of rude wicked Boys, who delighted in Mischief. Complaint of these Abuses was made to the Bishop's Chancellor, who was also a Justice of the Peace, and to other Magistrates, who only retorted on the Complainants, telling them, that *Their Meetings were contrary to Law*; so that they obtained no Redress.

On the 29th of September, were taken for Fines for Meeting,

Distresses for
Meeting.

From Robert Norris, several Loads of Timber, his working Tools, two Bedsteads, and other Things, worth

Richard Carter, a Quantity of Cloth worth

John King, of Chichester, a poor Man, Goods worth

l. s. d.

25 0 0

6 0 0

0 15 0

31 15 0

John Grover, for Absence from his Parish-Church, had Goods taken from him to the Value of 13s. 6d.

Death of
E. Hamper.

At a Sessions held at Midhurst on the 1st of October, Edward Hamper being there indicted for Absence from the Church, had also the Oath of Allegiance tendered him by the Justices in open Court, and for refusing to take it, was committed to Horsham Goal, and at another Sessions ordered to continue there, which he did until he died, after above a Year's Imprisonment.

Fines and
Imprisonments
for Absence
from the pub-
lick Worship.

From the said Sessions at Midhurst, Henry Luxford, Francis Hogg, Robert Older, James Luxford, William Greenfield, Nicholas Rickman, and Edward Luckins, were also committed to Horsham Goal for Fines imposed on them upon Convictions of Absence from their Parish-Churches.

Distresses
granted on the
Information
of a Priest.

On the 11th of October, Thomas Mosely, Thomas Beard, Mary Akehurst Widow, Mary Akehurst Spinster, Thomas Robinson and his Wife, and Thomas Akehurst, all of the Clift near Lewis, were sent for before Sir John Shapley, on the Information of John Eresby, a Priest, for having been absent from Church three several Sundays, &c. The Justice issued a Warrant for distreining their Goods, which was executed on several of them: But because the Officers did not make Distress on some others, he issued another Warrant for the Imprisonment of their Persons, but the High Constable considering the Charge which the Execution of that Warrant would put the Hundred to, found Means to avoid serving it.

On the 8th of November, Benjamin Mosely, of Lewis, for a Fine of 3s. for his Wife's Absence from Church, had taken from him four Pair of Stockings worth 4s. 4d.

Prosecution of
A. Galloway
in the Ecclesi-
astical Court.

Ambrose Galloway the Younger, of Lewis, was presented in the Bishop's Court by John Eresby, Priest of the Parish, for not repairing to the Parish-Church to hear Divine Service, and for not receiving the Sacrament according to the Canons. The said Ambrose appeared, and alledged, *That the Priest was not a credible Witness, having been formerly proved to have taken a false Oath in an Information by him made: That he the said Ambrose stood convicted on a Prosecution at the Sessions for the same Offence, and that being already prosecuted by Statute Law, he ought not to be presented in the Ecclesiastical Court for the same Cause: That as to receiving the Sacrament, he had never been admonished thereto by the Priest.* Upon this Plea, the Chancellor, Judge of the Court, gave him Time to bring a Certificate of his former Conviction, which he said, *would discharge him as to his not going to Church, but admonished him to receive the Sacrament at Easter next*; but it happened that the said Ambrose was then in Prison, which he at another Court alledged, and was again admonished to receive the same at Whitsuntide.

On

On the 24th of November, *Thomas Mosely, Thomas Robinson, and Thomas Beard*, of the *Clift* near *Lewis*, were summoned to appear at the Bishop's Court, which they did, and alledged, *That they were already convicted on the Statute for 20 l. per Month*, and their Presentment being only for not going to Church, the Chancellor discharged them.

On the 28th of October, a Constable, and two Informers, came into the Meeting at *Chichester*, and carried thence four of the Friends before a Justice, who committed two of them to Prison.

On the same Day, at a Meeting at the House of *Thomas Parsons*, of *Cowfold*, several Informers and others came, and pulled down *Henry Gates* then preaching, and proceeded to take the Names of several others, and next Day gave Information to *Anthony Eversfield* and *William Goring*, Justices, who issued their Warrants against *Thomas Parsons* for 20 l. for the House, *Henry Gates* the like Sum for Preaching, and *Richard Gates* and several others 5 s. each, as Hearers. In Pursuance of which Warrants, *John Bull*, Constable, with an Headborough, and other Assistants, came to *Thomas Parsons's* House on the 29th of November, he being from Home, and seized his Household Goods to the Value of 50 l. also three Stacks of Hay and Corn in the Barn worth 25 l. but left them on the Premises.

On the 31st of December, they came again, and drove away thirteen Sheep and four Hogs worth 9 l. 14 s. The Sheep they sold for less than Half their Value to an Alehouse-keeper for Money and Strong-drink, and the Hogs were sold to one *Busbel* an Informer, at the same low Rate.

On the 10th of the Month called *January*, they came again, and brought two Waggons, the Constable swearing that *He would leave nothing in the House before he slept*: So they began to load the Waggons with Beds and Mats, and all Things belonging to them, Stools, Chairs, Forms, Tables, Milk-leads, Brewing-tubs, and Vessels, and carried them away to an Alehouse. These Goods, with the Hogs and Sheep before taken, were worth 36 l. and yet the Constable said, *He had not enough to satisfy him for the said Fine of 20 l.*

By another of the said Warrants, *John Mitchel*, Constable of *Slaugham*, was directed to levy 20 l. on *Henry Gates* for Preaching: But the Constable would have returned the Warrant to the Justice unexecuted, alledging, *That he could not distinguish the Goods of the said Henry Gates from those of other Persons dwelling in the said House*. The Justice refused to take back the Warrant, yet issued two other Warrants for the said 20 l. of which he charged 10 l. on *Richard Gates*, of *Horsham*, and the other 10 l. on *Thomas Smith*, of *Bolney*: And on the 17th of December, the said *Richard Gates* had taken from him two Mares and fifteen Bars of Iron worth 13 l. 16 s.

Arthur Stanbridge, of *Cowfold*, fined 5 s. for being at the same Meeting, had Household Goods taken from him worth 15 s.

At the Quarter Sessions, held at *Arundel* on the 14th. of the Month called *January*, *Edward Booker, William Garton, Henry Mills, Thomas Snaishold, Jacob Knowles, William Longford, and Thomas Parsons*, were severally indicted for Absence from Church, and refusing to pay the Fines laid on them, were committed to Prison; as were also *Richard Green* and *Margery Wilkinson*, on an Indictment for being at a Conventicle, and for refusing to enter into Recognizances for traversing the said Indictment. And at the same Sessions, *Henry Luxford, Maschall Picknall, Edward Herriott, Nicholas Rickman, Edward Luckins, James Luxford, and Francis Hogg*, were continued in Prison, where they had already been about three Months.

At the Assizes, held at *East-Grinstead* on the 10th of the Month called *March*, thirteen of the *Quakers*, Prisoners, were brought into Court, of whom four were fined on new Indictments for Absence from the National Worship, and all the thirteen returned again to Prison.

At the same Assizes, the following Paper was delivered to one of the Judges, viz.

“ To

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1683.

Presentments
in the Spirit-
ual Court.

2 Imprisoned.

Grievous
Spoil of the
Goods of
T. Parsons
and R. Gates.

Imprison-
ments.

SUSSEX.
1683.

A Paper de-
livered to the
Judges.

To the KING's JUDGES of Assize.

" WE the King's Subjects, who are Prisoners, called *Quakers*, who are
" a peaceable People, and have lived so under the Government, as
" hath been experienced ever since we have been a People, for the Lord hath
" taught us so to do: And it is the Intent of our Hearts so to continue through
" the Lord's Assistance to the End of our Days: And farther, we desire the
" Prosperity of the King, his Judges, Ministers, and Subjects, in the Things
" of this Life, and that which is to come.

" We desire and intreat you to shew us what Favour you can, for here
" are *thirteen* of us, *two* for Meeting, when but *five* in the Meeting: *Eleven*
" of us for *12 d.* a *Sunday*, so called, some upon three Indictments, some upon
" two, some upon one. Those upon three Indictments fined *9 s.* Fees *2 l.*
" *11 s. 3 d.* Those upon two Indictments fined *6 s.* Fees *2 l. 15 s. 6 d.* Those
" on one Indictment fined *3 s.* Fees *1 l. 13 s. 9 d.*

" The Judge the last Assize was pleased to advise to proceed by Way of
" Distress, as the Act in that Case provides, to avoid such unnecessary Charge,
" and not to imprison, we being many of us poor labouring Men, and the
" Livelihood of our Families depending upon our Labours, and by reason of
" our long Imprisonment, are exposed to receive Help from others: Some of
" us have been committed above twelve Months, some near six Months, some
" near three Months, and some of us have had our Goods taken from us by
" Informers, our Beds we lay on, Pots, Skillets, Kettles, with other Household
" Goods and working Tools. And what Favour you are pleased to extend
" towards us, we shall desire the Lord to double it into your Bosom.

East-Grinstead, the
10th of the First
Month 1683-4.

" EDWARD HAMPER,
" NICHOLAS RICKMAN,
" MASCHAL PICKNALL,
" MARGERY WILKINSON,
" JACOB KNOWLES,
" EDWARD LUCKING,
" THOMAS PARSONS,

RICHARD GREEN,
JAMES LUXFORD,
THOMAS SNASHALL,
EDWARD HERRIOTT,
FRANCIS HOGG,
HENRY LUXFORD."

Answer of a
Judge.

Upon delivering the said Paper to one of the Judges, his Answer to the
Person who gave it him was, *That he had Instructions from the King to put the
Laws in Execution, and that he was bound by his Oath so to do.* He signified,
That he was not unwilling to shew any lawful Favour to them, and in his Discourse
appeared very moderate and good-natur'd.

The Proceedings at that Assize are briefly set forth by *Nicholas Rickman*, one
of the Prisoners, in the following Letter to his Friend *William Gibson* in *London*,
viz.

" Dear Friend,

" Horsham, the 20th of the First Month 1683-4.

Letter of
N. Rickman
to W. Gibson.

" MY unfeigned Love salutes thee, and the Dear Love of all Friends
" and Fellow Sufferers now in Prison with me, I do hereby at their
" Desire, recommend unto thee, and to the Meeting of Friends for Sufferings
" in *London*. And since your Love and Care for us was such, as to lend us
" your assisting Hand by way of Counsel and Advice, we have thought it
" requisite to signify unto thee and them the Effects, that what we did by
" a Writing before the Court sat, nor yet by Conference of a Woman Friend
" of our Company after the Court was almost done, availed not any Thing
" toward any of our Relief, but Judge *Jones* coming to Court at last, and
" calling only that one Friend, that was upon the Oath, made a second
" Tender thereof, and gave him Time till next Assizes to consider, before he
" past the Sentence of *Premunire*. None of us all else were called by him at
" all: And so we were all recommitted to Prison as we were: Only about
" three Friends more of our Company had each a new Indictment clapt
" more

“ more upon them by the Clerk, when the Judge was from the Bench, and
 “ so to Prison again they brought us through a deep Snow to the Knees in
 “ some Places, where Friends, through God’s Goodness, contentedly abide his
 “ Will in much Patience.

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“ NICHOLAS RICKMAN.”

In this Year *William Garton* was committed to *Horsbam* Goal for Tithes, at the Suit of *John Sotcher*, Impropiator. Imprisonment

John Bristow had a fat Cow worth 4*l.* taken away for 40*s.* Tithes claimed by *John Bonwick*, Priest of *Nudigate*: And *Thomas Humphry* had two fat Oxen taken away for Tithes, which were valued at 13*l.* 10*s.* and Distresses for Tithes.

In September this Year, several Persons came to the House of *Arthur Stanbridge*, of *Cowfold*, under a Pretence of searching for Arms, and carried away two Fowling-pieces worth 30*s.*

ANNO 1684. On the 12th of November, *William Garton*, for 5*l.* 12*s.* demanded for Tithes by *John Wickin*, Impropiator of the Tithes of *Ifield*, had two Cows taken away worth 7*l.*

Richard Stevens, of *Lewis*, having been cited into the Bishop’s Court for refusing to pay 4*s.* 6*d.* toward the Repairs of the Steeple-house of *Michael’s* Parish there, appeared several Times at their Courts, and at length was decreed excommunicate, and about the Month called *June* this Year, the Excommunication was published in the Parish where he dwelt: On the 17th of November following, he was committed to *Horsbam* Goal by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo, and there continued Prisoner. Imprisonment by a Writ de Excom. Cap.

On the 5th of the Month called *April*, *Ambrose Galloway* the Elder, *Ambrose Galloway* the Younger, *Richard Stevens*, and *Benjamin Mosely*, of *Lewis*, *Nicholas Beard* the Elder, and *Nicholas Beard* the Younger, of *Rottingdean*, were taken on a Sessions Process by *Richard Halsted* and *John Wood*, Bayliffs, and kept close Prisoners at the *White Horse* in *Lewis*, till the 10th of the same Month, when they were brought to the Sessions there, and through the Moderation of the Justices discharged; nor would the Justices allow the Bayliffs any Thing for their Officioufness in keeping them so imprisoned as aforesaid. Imprisonments by Sessions Process.

They were no sooner discharged, but they were called again upon another Indictment on the Statute of 35 *Eliz.* to which their Council answered, *That he would give in a Plea to that the next Day.* On the 11th their Council demurred to the Jurisdiction of the Court, alledging, *That they might not take Cognizance of Offences against that Statute*, and so argued the Case, that the Court deferred the Matter for the Opinion of the Judges at the next Assizes.

On the 7th of the same Month, at a Sessions at *Chichester*, *Richard Green* and *Margery Wilkinson* were tried on the Act of 13 *K. Cha. 2.* for being at a Conventicle: The Jury brought them in *Guilty*, and they were fined 20*s.* each. Fines.

On the 26th of the same Month, *Newton* and *Halsted*, Informers, came into the Meeting-house at *Chichester*, when only three Men and a Boy were there, pulled down Part of the House, and carried it away, and sold it.

On the 29th of the Month called *June*, *John Bull* Constable, with divers others attending him, came to a Meeting at the House of *Thomas Parsons*, of *Cowfold*, and enquiring the Friends Names, would have carried them before the Justices, but he having no Warrant, they refused to go. A few Days after, the said Constable and others lodged an Information before *Anthony Eversfield* and *John Macbill*, Justices, that *Thomas Oliver*, *William Garton*, *Arthur Stanbridge*, *Richard Parsons*, *Robert Older*, *Thomas Snashall*, *William Linsfield*, *William Grinfield*, *Humphry Killingbeck* and his Wife, *John Snashall*, *Joane Button* and *Richard Hayler*, with an Hundred Persons more, were met together in a riotous Manner: Whereupon the said Justices granted their Warrant, by which *Richard Hayler*, *Richard Parsons*, *Arthur Stanbridge*, *John Snashall*, and *Thomas Snashall*, were taken up, but some of the Justices took their Words for their Appearance at the next Sessions. Nevertheless, before the Sessions came, *Richard Hayler*, being at *Horsbam* Fair, Justice *Macbill* came Proceedings on Information of a Meeting at Cowfold.

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1684.

A second
Meeting at
Cowfold.

with a Constable, as the said *Richard* was selling his Cattle, and hurried him away forthwith to the Common Goal, not allowing him the Liberty of the Fair. At the next Sessions they all appeared, and entered their Traverse to an Indictment drawn up against them; and so had their Liberty till another Sessions.

On the 27th of the Month called *July*, *John Bull*, Constable, and others, came again to the Meeting at *Thomas Parsons's House*, with a Warrant from the said Justices, or one of them, and took thence *Thomas Oliver*, *Henry Gates*, *William Garton*, *Richard Chandler*, *Henry Wright*, *James Woodman*, *Richard Parsons*, and *Jacob Knowles*, and carried them before *James Morton*, Justice, who committed them to Prison for being at an unlawful Assembly: After they had been Prisoners a few Days at *Horsham*, the said Justice, in regard it was Harvest-Time, was induced to write to the Goaler to let them have some Liberty, signifying that he could receive no Damage by it in case they appeared at the Sessions. The Goaler at first refused to comply, but afterwards got some of his Acquaintance to be bound for their Appearance at Sessions, and so let them go Home. At the Sessions they all appeared, except *Thomas Oliver*, who was taken sick, and died before that Time. They were indicted for a Riot, but the Indictment being defective and wrong laid, was quash'd, and they were discharged: Yet one of them, *William Garton*, through the Contrivance of the Clerk of the Peace, was afterwards indicted for the same Offence at *Lewis Sessions*, and for refusing to enter his Traverse, was committed to Prison.

A third Meeting
at Cow-
fold.

In the Month of *September* this Year, *John Shaw*, *Daniel Hayler*, *Richard Gates*, *John Edwards*, *John Faires*, *William Boxball*, *Stephen Young*, *John Michener*, *Richard Chandler*, and *Thomas Banister*, were taken out of a Meeting at the said *Thomas Parsons's House* in *Cowfold*, and had before the Justices *Machill* and *Eversfield*, who committed them all to Prison, where most of them remained until the Sessions, and being then called, and refusing to enter their Traverse, were all returned to Prison again, except two, who were bailed by their Relations till the next Sessions at *Arundel*, for the West Part of the County; when they were called to the Bar, but the Clerk would not suffer their Trial to come on, unless they would pay him 2 s. each for a *Venire*, which they refused to do. Their Council pleaded, that the Court might not send them to Prison again without a Trial, and the Justices themselves being favourable, were not inclinable to recommit them, so that seeing themselves at Liberty they went to their own Homes: Nevertheless, at the Sessions at *Lewis* in the same Week, the Clerk got them all returned upon the Calendar as Prisoners, except *Daniel Hayler* and *Richard Gates*, who were tried and fined 10 s. each; but the Justices were not willing to grant any Warrants for taking those again who went Home from the aforesaid Sessions at *Arundel*.

Fine.

At this Sessions also, *William Garton*, for whose Appearance his Landlord had been bound, as before mentioned, was tried for two Meetings, and fined 10 s. for each Meeting.

Proceedings at
Midhurst
Sessions,

At a Sessions held at *Midhurst* on the 7th of *October*, *John Shaw*, *Richard Chandler*, *Daniel Hayler*, *William Boxball*, *Thomas Banister*, and *Stephen Young*, were indicted for a Riot and Rout, and were committed to *Horsham Goal*.

and at Lewis
Sessions.

At the Sessions in *Lewis*, on the 10th of *October*, *Richard Hayler*, *Richard Parsons*, *John Snashall*, *Arthur Stanbridge*, and *Thomas Snashall*, were indicted for a Riot. Their Council pleaded well on their Behalf, and the Jury had agreed to bring them in Guilty of a *Conventicle*, but not of a Riot: But the Foreman, when they brought in their Verdict, inadvertently answered Guilty, which the Clerk instantly recorded, though most of the Jury declared their Intention to acquit them of a Riot. The Clerk having recorded the Verdict, would not alter it, though it was observed in Court, that a Favour of that Kind had been granted to a Felon not long before: One of the Justices said, that *The Jury had done well ignorantly*. At their next Sessions they fined the

Friends

Friends 20 s. each, and ordered Warrants to be issued to recommit them, in case of Non-payment.

Upon Information given to *Thomas Beard* and *Peter Courthop*, Justices, of a Meeting at *Ifield* on the 21st of December, *Henry Gates* was fined 40 l. for Preaching, and a little Time after, had a Seizure made of his Corn, Hay, Hops, and fat Hogs, to the Value of 160 l. One *Calvert Bristow*, a Neighbour, observing what Spoil they were making, treated with the Officers, who assigned all the Goods seized to him on Condition of paying them the 40 l. He took away so many of the Goods as he thought would be sufficient to satisfy himself for that Sum, leaving the rest with *Henry Gates* the Owner: After this he would have paid the said 40 l. to the Justices upon their making him a valid Sale of the Goods which had been seized. This they refused to do, and directed him to keep the Money till Sessions. Upon this the Informers, *Henry Marrian* and *Matthew Marrian*, conceived a Grudge against the said *Calvert Bristow* for concerning himself in this Affair, and hindring them from receiving such Part of the Spoil as they aimed at: Wherefore by way of Revenge they endeavoured to suborn one *Bennett*, a Comrade of theirs, to swear Treason against the said *Calvert*. *Bennett*, though a very bad Man, was not so hardened in Wickedness as to undertake so black a Business, but discovered their Design to *Calvert*, and also went and made Oath before a Magistrate of their Attempt. Upon this the two *Marrians*, Father and Son, were apprehended and sent to Goal: Being there, the Son confessed the whole of the Affair, and both of them were afterward bail'd out in order to answer it at the Assizes: However, in the Conclusion *Calvert Bristow* was obliged to pay in to the Justices about 64 l. 5 s. and to repay himself out of *Henry Gates's* Goods as aforesaid sold him.

For the same Meeting at *Ifield*, a Fine of 20 l. for the House was laid as follows, viz.

On *John Steer* 9 l. for which they took from him a Pair of Oxen worth 10 l. On *Edmund Booker* 5 l. 10 s. for which they took from him three Cows worth 8 l. And on *James Fenner* the remaining 5 l. 10 s.

William Garton, for being at the same Meeting, was fined 30 s. for himself and others, and had taken from him a Cow worth 40 s.

For the same Meeting Distresses were made by the Officers of *Ifield* for 5 s. each, on *Richard Bengé*, *Joseph Bengé*, *William Brown*, *Thomas Brown*, *Francis Chairman*, and *Francis Hogg*: And for the like Fines, Distresses were made by the Officers of *Charlewood* on *John Humphry*, *James Robinson*, *Thomas Stenton*, *Francis Cox*, *John Nightingale*, and *Joseph Booker*.

For Absence from the National Worship were taken this Year, by Warrants from *Thomas Beard*, Justice, from *William Bennett*, *Thomas Tidy*, and *John Grover*, Goods to the Value of 5 l. 6 s.

For Meetings at *Stenning*, were taken by Distress,

	l.	s.	d.	
From <i>Richard Hayler</i> , for 5 l. 15 s. Fine, two Heifers worth	6	0	0	Fines for Absence from the National Worship.
<i>William Longford</i> , for 3 l. 10 s. Fine, Goods worth	6	0	0	
<i>William Parker</i> , for 5 l. Fine, eleven Sheep worth	5	15	0	
<i>Hannah</i> , Wife of <i>Martin Symons</i> , for 1 l. Fine, Goods worth	1	8	0	
<i>Thomas Snashall</i> , for 5 l. 15 s. Fine, a Mare worth	8	7	6	
<i>Edward Barber</i> , for 5 s. Fine, Goods to the Value of	0	7	0	
<i>Jacob Knowles</i> , for 1 l. 15 s. Fine, forty one Boards worth	2	2	0	
For Fines of 23 l. 0 s. 0 d.	Taken	29	19	6

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Fines for a Meeting at Ifield.

Wickedness of Informers.

SUSSEX.
1684.

E. Blackfan
dropt his Ap-
peal.

Case of John
Deane and
his Wife.

Mary Fleet, a poor Cripple maintained by Charity, had taken from her five Sheets, a Brass Pottage-pot, a Frying-pan, and a Joint-stool, worth 1*l.* 15*s.*

Edward Blackfan, for being at the same Meetings, was fined 7*l.* 18*s.* which, at the Persuasion of some Justices and others, he paid in order to an Appeal, but when the Sessions came on, he found so little Encouragement in prosecuting the same, that he chose rather to lose his Money, than to be put to farther Charge.

ANNO 1685. About the Conclusion of the last Year, *Hannab*, Wife of *John Deane*, was taken up by an Attachment out of the *Exchequer*, at the Suit of *William Jenden*, Priest of *Chilington*, for Tithes, and on the 25th of the Month called *April* this Year, the said *John Deane* himself was taken by the same Attachment; they were both committed to Prison, and continued there till the 24th of the Month called *May*, when the Priest himself went to the Prison, and ordered the Goaler to discharge them: This was judged to proceed from his Consciousness of their Innocence and Integrity, which made him very uneasy at what he had done. Thus were they set at Liberty; yet so unstable was the Priest, that about two Years after, he again caused the said *John Deane* to be imprisoned several Months for another Claim of Tithes then made by him.

Taken this Year by Distress, for Tithes claimed by *Henry Hesket*, Priest of *Charlewood*,

Distresses for Tithes.	From		l. s. d.		
	James Robinson,	for 4 <i>l.</i> demanded, two Oxen worth	14	0	0
	Thomas Humphry,	for 4 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> demanded, two Oxen } worth	10	10	0
	Mary Taylor Widow,	two Cows worth	6	10	0
	Moses Chandler,	two young Beasts worth	4	0	0
			35	0	0

Taken also from *John Bristow*, for *John Bonwick*, Priest of *Nudigate*, a Cow worth 3*l.* 10*s.* And from *Richard Hayler*, for Tithes claimed by *Joseph Proud*, Priest of *Stenning*, an Heifer worth 4*l.* 6*s.*

Commitments
from a Meet-
ing at Cow-
fold.

On the 29th of the Month called *March* this Year, *Henry Gates*, *John Blott*, *John Grover*, *Humphry Killingbeck*, *John Beckly*, *Richard Bengé*, *Thomas Bax*, *Walter Constable*, *Thomas Humphry*, *William Garton jun.* *Thomas Rowland*, *Josiah Garton*, *Henry Mills*, and *Stephen Young*, were taken out of a Meeting at the House of *Thomas Parsons* in *Cowfold*, and being carried before *Anthony Eversfield* and *John Macbill*, Justices, were committed to Prison for not giving Sureties to appear at the Assizes, but some of them were afterward bailed out by their Relations or Acquaintance.

Death of
H. Dixon.

Henry Dixon, of *Stenning*, having Process out against him, appeared at the Quarter Sessions at *Chichester* on the 27th and 28th of the Month called *April*, and was thence committed to Prison for Fines and Fees, where he lay close confined till the 25th of the Month called *June*, and then died, his Physician having often said, *That his close Confinement would be the Cause of his Death*; yet the Goaler would by no means grant him any Liberty.

Indictments at
the Assizes.

At the Assizes, held at *Horsham* on the 7th of *September*, about twenty Friends appeared, and were indicted for a Rout and unlawful Assembly, where thirteen of them, namely, *Nicholas Beard*, *William Garton*, *Edward Booker*, *John Linfield*, *Walter Constable*, *Thomas Humphry*, *Stephen Young*, *Henry Mills jun.* *William Garton jun.* *Josiah Garton*, *John Grover*, *Humphry Killingbeck*, and *Thomas Rowland*, were fined 40*s.* each; and most of them were discharged by their Neighbours or Acquaintance paying their Fines and Fees without their Consent: The other seven were remanded to Prison for lack of Sureties to traverse the Indictment, viz. *Jacob Knowles*, *Richard Parsons*, *John Merchant*, *John Betchly*, *John Blott*, *Henry Gates*, and *Richard Bengé*: These also were bailed out, and appearing at the next Assizes, were set at Liberty by Virtue of the

the King's Proclamation. At the same Affizes most of the other Prisoners were also set at Liberty. SUSSEX. 1685.

By a Warrant granted by Thomas Beard and Peter Courtbop, Justices, on the Information of Henry and Matthew Marrian, Informers, for a Meeting at Ifield, Fines were imposed, and Distresses made as follows, viz.

Taken from		Goods worth	
		l.	s. d.
Edward Booker		5	15 0
James Woodman		5	5 0
William Brown		0	15 0
Francis Chairman		0	10 0
Nicholas Hogg		0	5 0
Richard Terry		3	10 0
William Garton		5	10 0
John Steer		3	0 0
Henry Mills		0	10 0
Joseph Bengie		0	10 0
Mary Finch		0	5 0
		25	15 0

Distresses for a Meeting at Ifield.

We shall next subjoyn a List of the Names of Persons excommunicated in this County, taken out of the Register's Office on the 4th of the Month called January 1685, viz.

Ambrose Galloway sen.	Hannab Morris,	John Snafhall, and
Ambrose Galloway jun.	Walter Norman,	his Wife,
Benjamin Mosely,	Maschall Picknall, and	Nicholas Beard, and
William Beard,	Clement his Wife,	Susanna his Wife,
Thomas Parsons,	Robert Brown,	Thomas Akeburst,
Robert Older,	Elias Ellis, and	Mary Akeburst,
Thomas Snafhall,	Mary his Wife,	Thomas Buck,
John Grover,	John Newnham,	Charles Brigstock,
Thomas Batten, and	Thomas Mosely,	William Daniel,
Anne his Wife,	Richard Stevens,	Edward Gerrard,
John Scrase,	Richard Verrall, and	Edward Herriott,
Jane Eagér,	his Wife,	Richard Dunne,
John Fowle, and his	James Luxford,	Thomas Ellis,
Wife,	Henry Gates,	Jeremiah Ellis,
Richard Parsons,	William Bennett,	Thomas Robinson, and
Samuel Webb,	Samuel Baker,	his Wife.

A List of Prisoners excommunicated.

Many of the last named Persons had been also returned into the Exchequer on the Statute for 20l. per Month, and Processess were gone forth for levying the same on the Estates of several of them, but their Ruin was prevented by King James's Proclamation for a general Pardon, and his Commission to the Attorney General in particular, for extending the same to the People called Quakers, in Prison on Writs de Excommunicato capiendo, and on Processess for not coming to Church, &c.

Exchequer Process prevented by King James's Proclamation, &c.

ANNO 1686. Taken from Richard Hayler for Tithes, by Joseph Proud, Priest of Stenning, a fat Beast worth 5l. 15s. And from John Bristow, for John Bonwick, Priest of Nudigate, a Cow worth 3l. 15s.

Distresses for Tithes.

In October this Year, Nicholas Rickman, of Arundel, Henry Elliott and his Wife, of Augmeering, and Richard Pagden, of Polling near Arundel, were presented in the Ecclesiastical Court at Chichester, for not coming to Church: Nicholas Rickman and another Friend appeared, as cited, before Dr. Briggs, Chancellor and Judge of the Court, and shewed him, that there were two Indictments against them at the Quarter Sessions for the same Offence, which they thought a sufficient Reason for him to forbear Proceeding: But nevertheless he

Injustice of Ecclesiastical Proceedings.

SUSSEX.
1686.

did proceed to Excommunication, and the same was published in their Parish Churches. After which, one Tilyer, Priest of Augmeering, and Denbam, Priest of Polling, made it their Business to warn the People of their respective Parishes, not to have any Dealings with them, neither to buy of nor sell to them, nor let them have any Kind of Provision either for Money or Credit, threatening all such as should deal with them with Excommunication. They forbid the Miller to grind Henry Elliot's Corn, and he, for fear of them, refused to do it. Whereupon the said Henry employed a Woman who kept a Mill at Arundel, to grind for him, for which she was summoned to the Court, where they forced her to pay Money, and to promise not to grind for him any more. Thus those Priests discovered their Inclinations to have persecuted this People to the utmost, even after the King had by his Declaration forbidden their Imprisonment.

Cruel Prosecution of Mary Akehurst by a malicious Priest.

ANNO 1687. Mary Akehurst, of the Cliff, near Lewis, Widow, having been prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes, at the Suit of John Eresby, Priest, was excommunicated, and on the 9th of the Month called July, near Midnight, was taken by two Bayliffs with a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo. The next Day, being the Day called Sunday, they carried her away to Prison, though she had been a long Time sick, and was even then so weak, that she could not walk without holding: Nevertheless, one of the Bayliffs, being drunk, when he got on Horseback, with many Oaths and Threatnings had her set upon his Horse, and would not suffer her to take Necessaries with her, so that her Friends thought she could not live till she came to the Prison: But the barbarous Bayliff swore, that If she could not hold it to Prison, which was twenty Miles, he would tie her, and drag her thither at his Horse's Tail. Being brought to Horsham Goal, she was kept close Prisoner there about seven Months, and then was removed to London, and committed to the King's-Bench. The unusual Cruelty exercised on this innocent Woman, proceeded from an inveterate Malice the Parson had long conceived against Thomas Akehurst her Son, on the following Occasion: The Priest had made a false Information against Thomas Akehurst for being at two Meetings, where he was not: Akehurst indicted the Parson for Perjury, and the Grand Jury found the Bill against him at Lewis Sessions in 1683. This enraged the Parson, and he, as it was generally thought, by way of Revenge, thus severely prosecuted his aged sickly Mother.

Prosecutions for Tithes.

John Bristow had again taken from him, for Tithes claimed by the Priest of Nudigate, a Cow worth 3 l. 10 s.

Elias Ellis was prosecuted in the Exchequer for Tithes, at the Suit of David Morton, and on the 21st of October was committed to Horsham Goal on an Attachment, where he remained seventeen Weeks.

On the 19th of the Month called January, Thomas Parsons, of Cowfold, was also committed to the same Prison, at the Suit of George Vinter, Priest of that Parish, for Tithes. Richard Hayler also had taken from him for Tithes, by Joseph Proud, Priest of Stenning, a fat Ox worth 7 l. He also suffered for the Repairs of the Steeple-house, which he refused to pay, the Loss of 6 l. 7 s. 4 d.

Distresses for Tithes.

ANNO 1688. Taken from William Garton, of Ifield, for Tithes for John Wickin, Impropiator, two Cows, a Calf, with other Goods and Money to the Value of 17 l. And from Richard Verrall, of Brightelmstone, for Henry Snook, Priest, Wool worth 2 s. 6 d. and for Robert Gold, Tithe farmer, Goods worth 1 l. 15 s. From John Bristow, for John Bonwick, Priest of Nudigate, were taken two Beasts worth 5 l. 5 s. From James Robinson, for Henry Heskett, Priest of Charlewood, two fat Oxen worth 14 l. From William Matthew, of Charlewood, for the same Priest, a Cow, &c. worth 4 l. 10 s. And from Thomas Humphry, for the same Priest, for Tithes valued at 16 l. two Oxen, a Cow, and Money, to the Value of 24 l.

ANNO 1689. Taken from Moses Chandler, for the said Henry Heskett, in Cattle and Money to the Value of 7 l. 3 s. From Richard Hayler, for Joseph Proud, Priest of Stenning, for Tithes worth 5 l. 10 s. a fat Ox worth 9 l. 10 s. From Elias Ellis, of Warbleton, at the Suit of Anthony Nethercott, Priest there, for

for Tithes of 8*l.* Value, a Mare, three fat Beasts, and other Cattle, to the Value of 35*l.* From *Richard Verral*, of *Brightelmstone*, for *Henry Snook*, Priest, a Sheep, Lamb, and Wool, worth 14*s.* 6*d.* and for *Robert Gold*, Tithe-farmer, Wheat and Barley worth 1*l.* 10*s.* From *Jeremiah Ellis*, at the Suit of *Anthony Newberrcott*, Priest, for Tithes of about 40*s.* Value, four Oxen worth 22*l.* From *Nicholas Beard*, for *Isaac Woodroof*, Priest of *Rottingdean*, Corn and other Things to the Value of 30*l.* And from *John Bristow*, of *Nudigate*, for *John Bonwick*, Priest, for Tithes of 40*s.* Value, two Cows worth 5*l.* 10*s.* Also *Richard Hudson*, of *Bedingham*, had Corn and Pease taken from him for *William Haselin*, Impropiator.

SUSSEX.
1689.

Distresses for
Tithes.

ANNO 1690. *James Robinson*, for 3*l.* 10*s.* demanded for Tithes by *Henry Hesket*, Priest of *Charlewood*, had taken from him a Cow and a Calf worth 4*l.* 10*s.* From *Thomas Humphry*, for 6*l.* 10*s.* demanded by the same Priest, a fat Ox was taken worth 7*l.* From *Nicholas Beard*, for *Isaac Woodroof*, Priest of *Rottingdean*, were taken Corn, Wool, and other Things, worth 22*l.* From *James Baker*, of *Milton-street*, for *William Staples*, of *Arlington*, Tithe-farmer, for Tithe and a Church-Rate, Corn worth 12*l.* From *Richard Hudson*, of *Bedingham*, 12*s.* From *Edward Pryor*, for pretended Arrears of Tithes due to *Henry Hesket*, Priest of *Charlewood*, were taken a Pair of Oxen and Money to the Value of 13*l.* And from *John Bristow*, of *Nudigate*, for Tithes of 40*s.* Value, two Cows worth 4*l.*

On the 29th of September this Year, *Thomas Humphry* and *Thomas Ellis* were taken out of *Ifield* Meeting by Bayliffs, and carried to *Horsbam* Goal by an Attachment out of the *Exchequer* for Tithes, at the Suit of *John Wickin*, Impropiator. The Value of the Tithe claimed of the said *Thomas Humphry* was 40*s.* for four Years, and of *Thomas Ellis*, for two Acres of Ground never before known to pay Tithes. The said *Thomas Ellis* remained Prisoner about a Month, and *Thomas Humphry* about two Months, and were both discharged, some of their Neighbours, without their Knowledge, having satisfied their Profecutor.

Imprisonments
for Tithes.

Ambrose Galloway the Younger, of *Lewis*, had his Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 5*l.* for his Default in providing a Man to serve on the Trained-Bands: The said Distress was made by Virtue of a Warrant from the Lieutenantcy.

Distress for
the Trained-
Bands.

C H A P. XXXV.

W A L E S.

WALÉS.
1655.

ANNO 1655.

THE earliest Instance of this People's Suffering in *Wales*, is that of *John Ap John*, who being in the Steeple-house at *Swanzey* in *Glamorganshire*, after the Preacher had ended his Sermon, asked him, *Whether he was a Minister of Christ?* This Question gave great Offence, not only to the Priest of whom it was asked, but also to another of the same Function then present; who discovered his Wrath by instantly seizing *John* by the Collar, and without suffering him to speak another Word, dragging him out and delivering him to a Constable, who confined him that Night in a close dark Prison. Next Day he was brought before the Magistrates, whom the Priests laboured to incense against him, requiring in their fierce Zeal, to have him whipt, that the Devil might come out of him; and as often as he

Suffering of
J. Ap John.

W A L E S. he attempted to speak, one or other of the Priests would strike him, and stop his Mouth with their Hands. At length, he was sent to Prison by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

“ To the Keeper of the Common Goal for the County of Glamorgan,
“ or his Deputy at Cardiff.

“ Glamorgan.

Mittimus of
J. Ap John.

“ W H E R E A S it hath been proved by Oath before me, that *John Ap John*, of *Denbighshire*, hath misbehaved himself contrary to the Laws, and Security being therefore by me required for his personal Appearance at the next Great Sessions, to be holden for the said County, hath obstinately refused the same : These are therefore, in the Name of his Highness the Lord Protector, to charge and require you forthwith to receive into your Custody the Body of the said *John Ap John*, and him safely in your Goal to keep and retain, until he shall give good Security for his Appearance at the first Great Sessions, and in the mean Time to be of the good Behaviour toward his Highness, and all good People of this Nation : And hereof fail not, as you will answer the Contrary at your Peril. Dated at *Swansey* under my Hand and Seal the 8th Day of *October* 1655.

“ ROBERT DAWKINS.”

Notes on the
said Mittimus.

It is to be observed, that this *Mittimus* expresses no particular Cause for the Man's Imprisonment, but palliates an unjust Proceeding under Colour of a general Charge of Misbehaviour, though the Matter of Fact was in no wise criminal, nor liable to the Penalty of any Law : But the Justice, to oblige the Priests, and avenge their Cause, perverted the Law, to the great Oppression of an innocent Man.

Violent Insults
on a Meeting
at Cressedge.

ANNO 1656. On the 5th of *October*, being the Day called *Sunday*, a religious Assembly of this People was held in a Place near the Steeple-house Yard at *Cressedge*, where, as one of them was preaching, many People came out of the Steeple-house, and furiously rushing in, laid violent Hands on several : A Constable took away the Preacher, and carried him into the Town, where he stood and preached to the People, and they attentively heard him. When he had done preaching, he kneeled down to Prayer, but the Servants of *Samuel Smith* the Parish-Priest, rudely came out, and making a great Noise with Kettles, a Candlestick, and Frying-pan, endeavoured to drown the Voice of him that prayed : And being asked, *Why they did so* ? The Priest's Man answered, *He that set us to do it, will bear us out*. The Priest's Maid also, and others, threw Water in the Faces of many of the Friends. The Priest, who excited these Disorders, did not then appear, but soon after applied to the Justices, and obtained a Warrant to bring before them *William Paine*, *Constantine Overton*, *John Paine*, *Humphry Overton*, *Thomas Jenks*, *John Farmer*, and *James Farmer*, who accordingly appeared, but though several of the Priest's Hearers attested, *That they saw nothing done by them, but what was peaceable and orderly*, yet the Justices committed them to the Common Goal, there to remain till the Assizes above five Months after. At the Assizes, though no Breach of Law could be proved against them, yet the Judge, taking Occasion from their coming before him with their Hats on, fined them for a Contempt, and sent them back to Prison, whom he ought to have set at Liberty. Thus their Confinement was continued three Months longer.

Seven carried
before a Jus-
tice, and sent
to Prison.

Distresses for
Tithes.

In MONMOUTHSHIRE was this Year taken for Tithes,
From *John Read*, a Cow worth
Thomas Arnold, for 1 l. 2 s. demanded, Goods worth

l. s. d.

4 0 0

4 0 0

8 0 0

In

CHAP. 35. of the People called QUAKERS.

737

In GLAMORGANSHIRE,

From *Morgan Robin*, for 11s. 6d. demanded, Goods worth

He was also imprisoned five Weeks

Edmund Thomas, of *Molton*, for 3l. 2s. demanded, Goods worth

John David, of the same, for 1l. 4s. demanded, Goods worth

Evan Leonard, of the same, for 4s. demanded, Goods worth

Matthew Gibbon, for 2s. demanded, Goods worth

Morgan Gibbon, for 3l. demanded, Goods worth

Thomas and Daniel Hopkins, for 7s. demanded, Goods worth

For 8l. 10s. 6d. Taken

ANNO 1657. In RADNORSHIRE, taken for Tithes,

Demanded Value taken

From *Richard Moore*, for 1l. 1s. 0d. 6 11 4

Margaret Watson, 0 1 4 0 3 4

John Berks, 0 6 8 1 10 0

Evan Steven, 0 4 0 2 0 0

John Ap Evan David, 0 3 4 4 2 0

Oliver Howel, 0 5 0 1 0 0

Evan Morris, 1 10 0 5 10 0

Charles Davis, 0 4 0 1 10 0

Hugh Williams, 0 8 0 1 0 0

For 4 3 4 Taken 23 6 8

ANNO 1658. *John Ap John*, for preaching to the People in the Town

of *Swansey*, was several Times turned out of that Town by Order of the

Magistrates: At length, for his publick Opposition to *Evan Griffin*, one of

their Priests, he was haled out of the Steeple-house by the Hair of his Head

by one *Roberts*, a Preacher, and being brought before a Justice, was struck

and pulled by the Nose in his Presence by *Morris Bedwell*, Priest of *Swansey*,

and afterward by the said Justice committed to Goal, where he lay twenty

Weeks, and then was discharged without any legal Trial. In like Manner *Margaret Thomas* and *Rebecca Thomas*, for bearing their Testimony against the

Iniquities of those fighting Priests at *Swansey*, were much abused and imprisoned

there, and at length turned out of the Town: And when *William Bevan* of

that Place, went with his Boat and brought them over the Water thither

again, he also was imprisoned and put in Chains. In the same Year *Elizabeth Holmes* and *Anne Burket* were imprisoned in the *Dark-house* at *Swansey*, for the

same Cause of testifying against the Priests, but their Cause appearing too

innocent to be legally punished, they were dismiss'd again without any Trial.

Shortly after their Release, the said *Elizabeth Holmes* went into the Steeple-

house, and there preached to the People, who attentively heard her till

the Priest came, who caused her to be again imprisoned in the *Dark-house*,

where she was chained by the Leg at a great Distance from the Door, to prevent

her speaking to the Priests or others as they passed by, and so cruelly was she

used, that they would not suffer Necessaries to be brought her, but she was

obliged to drink by sucking through a Cane put in at the Hole of the Door.

She was a third Time confined a Day and a Night in the same Prison for

speaking a few Words to *Morris Bedwell* the Priest, as she met him in the

Street. At another Time the said *Elizabeth Holmes* and *Anne Burket*, having

Vol. I. 9 A been

WALES.
1656.

Distresses for
Tithes.

A Variety of
Abuses thro
the Excite-
ment of the
Priests.

Sundry Impri-
sonments.

WALES.
1658.



of the Justices
for

Sufferings of
F. Gawler.

been at a Meeting at *Walter Watkins's* House at *Sheer-Newton* in *Marmouth-shire*, and lodging there, some of the People made an Uproar about the House in the Night, and next Day carried them before the Justices, who made a Pass to send them away as Vagabonds, but their own Conscience of the Women's Innocence restrained them from executing it. The said *Elizabeth Holmes* was also sorely abused at *Lanvaches*, by the rude People animated by *Walter* and *Sims*, Preachers there. She and *Alice Burket* were haled by Violence out of the Steeple-house at *Newport*, and carried to the Bridge, and kept Prisoners there some Time.

Francis Gawler, of *Cardiff*, was several Times imprisoned for his Testimony against the Corruption of the Priests. At *Cardiff* he was haled out of the Steeple-house, shamefully abused by the People, and violently struck by the Priest himself with his Cane; At another Time, for asking the Priest a Question, after his Sermon before the Judges, he was committed to Prison, and detained there many Months: He was also again imprisoned a long Time for speaking to the same Priest in the Street. In the Steeple-house Yard at *Llandaff*, he and *Alice Burket* were grievously abused, where the said *Alice* was stoned, and had her Clothes torn off her Back, and the Priest's Wife struck the said *Francis* so violently with a Key, that he felt the Blow a long Time after. At *Swanzy*, as he was standing still in the Steeple-house, hearing the Priest, he was suddenly assaulted, dragged out, and imprisoned in the Town-hall, though his Behaviour was altogether peaceable and quiet, nor did he say any Thing. But his religious Concern to testify against the Priests of those Times being well known, so exposed him to their Resentment, that they stirred up the People by abusing him, to prevent his uttering such Reproof as their own Consciences told them they deserved. Hence it also happened, that he was frequently carried before the Magistrates, and by them dismissed for want of any colourable Pretence to proceed against him. The said *Francis Gawler*, *Edward Edwards*, and *Elizabeth Holmes*, being taken in a Meeting in *Sheer-Newton*, were brought before *Jabn Nicholas*, *William Bleathin*, and *Robert Jones*, Justices of the Peace, whose Examination of them before many People present at Justice *Bleathin's* House, was as follows, viz.

Examination
of *Francis
Gawler*, *Ed-
ward Ed-
wards*, and
*Elizabeth
Holmes*, be-
fore the Jus-
tices.

Justices. You have broken the Law in meeting together under the Tree so near the Church, and we have several Times warned you of it before this, therefore we must deal with you according to the Law.

Answer. We have broken no Law of the Nation in meeting together, for the Law of the Nation giveth Liberty to all to meet together in the Faith of Christ, in which we met together; therefore we have broken no Law.

Justice *Nicholas*. The Law saith, the Minister should not be disturbed, going to or coming from his Exercise.

Answer. That Law we have not broken now, for we did not see the Minister, nor speak to him.

Justice *Nicholas*. Though you did not see the Minister, nor speak with him, yet you know he was disturbed by your Meeting, being in the Way so near the Church, where the People did go forth: So by this there was a Disturbance.

Answer. We believe the Minister and you were troubled, because the People came forth of the Steeple-house to our Meeting, yet we have not broken the Law, for the Law saith, It must be proved that such came wilfully, maliciously, and of set Purpose to make Disturbance; and if such an Oath were taken before thee, we think thou wouldst hardly believe it.

Justice *Nicholas*. We shall do nothing but what we have Proof for: Some did hear the Voice of one of you in the Church, and so it must be a Disturbance.

Answer. It must be proved, that such an one did maliciously and wilfully make a Disturbance, therefore let it be proved.

Justice *Nicholas*. *Walter Jenkins's* Voice was heard in the Church, and therefore it must be a Disturbance.

Answer. *Walter Jenkins* was not here this Day; therefore believe them not who inform thee against us.

Justice

Justice Nicholas. *Walter Jenkins was here the last Time, and his Voice was heard then.* WALES. 1658.

Answer. That which thou dost question us for, is meeting together now, and that we have made a Disturbance, which cannot be proved. What *Walter Jenkins* did is past, and he is ready to give an Account for what he has done.

Justice Nicholas. *Do you own the Scriptures to be the Word of God, yea or nay?*

Answer. If thou sayst the Scripture is the Word of God, prove it, and produce one Scripture that saith, *The Scripture is the Word of God.*

Justice Nicholas. *I will do so.*

Justice Jones. *We will not prove it, till you first deny it.*

Answer. It lies upon the Governour to do it, whether we deny it or no, because he said *he would prove it*, therefore let him.

Justice Jones. *We shall not prove it, till you first deny it.*

Answer. The Governour said, *He would prove it*, so we may refuse the Answer till he proves it; yet notwithstanding, for the Sake of the Simple-hearted People here, if you will take an Answer according to the Scriptures of Truth, we shall answer you, which we know may satisfy you.

Justice Jones. *We are willing to receive an Answer according to the Scriptures of Truth.*

Answer. The Scriptures we own to be the Words of God, which are a Declaration of the Word of God, which was from the Beginning, before the Scriptures were written, and is as an Hammer and a Sword, dividing asunder between the Marrow and the Bones, and to this the Scripture stands a Witness for us. *John i. 1, 23. Heb. iv. 12.*

Justice Nicholas. *You have given us more Satisfaction than some of your Friends have done, and you speak very well, to own the Scriptures to be the Words of God, which indeed is Truth, and we are glad to hear you say so.*

Justice Jones. *But how is it you call our Ministers Deceivers, and some of you never saw their Faces before, which is a strange Thing to us, I pray you tell us.*

Answer. It is an easy Thing to know a Deceiver and a false Prophet, for they are markt with the Mark of the Beast in their Foreheads, and you may read in the Scripture, *so many Hundreds were marked with the Mark of the Beast in their Foreheads*, and they were those that upheld the Worship of the Beast in their Idols Temples, where the Beast is now worshipped in this Generation, by which Mark the false Prophets are known to be the Deceivers, though their Faces we never see; and take heed how you uphold them, lest you be Partakers of their Plagues.

Justice Jones. *Indeed we read in Scripture, as you say, that so many Hundreds were markt with the Mark of the Beast in their Foreheads, but it is a strange Thing to us, that you know our Ministers by that Mark.*

Answer. We believe thee, Friend, where thou art, that it is a strange Thing to thee; but if thou wilt come down to God's Witness, the Light which shines in thy Heart, thou wilt come to see it as plain as we speak it.

Justice Nicholas. *Yea: But do you not know, that you have profited by our Ministers, and that the Presence of God went with them? I pray you honestly confess.*

Answer. We shall honestly declare unto thee: There was a Time that the Presence of God went with some of them, and in that Time they did bear Witness against Tithes, Types, Figures, and Shadows, saying, *Christ was come, and hath set an End to Tithes*; and some of them durst not receive them for Conscience-sake, the which now they receive and plead for, and receive Hundreds by the Year by it; therefore the Presence of God is withdrawn from them, whom we deny, and by their Fruits they are known.

Justice Nicholas. *We will let them alone to plead for themselves.*

Answer. Do so, and let them fight for their God; and our Weapons shall not be carnal, but spiritual.

Justice

WALES.
1658.

Justice Jones. *You say, The Light shines in the Heart, which gives the Knowledge of God in the Face of Jesus Christ, and in so doing you add to the Scriptures.*

Answer. *We say, The Light shines in the Heart, which gives the Knowledge of God in the Face of Jesus Christ, and if thou deniest it, it lies upon us to prove it.*

Justice Jones. *Yes.*

Then F. Gawler turned to 2 Cor. iv. where the Text being plain against the Governour's Assertion, he honestly confessed his Error before the People, saying,

Justice Jones. *You are in the Right, and we were mistaken.*

Answer. We shall not make thee an Offender for a Word, but if thou hadst had such Advantage against us, thou wouldst hardly have past it by, but we are taught to do so. Thou and the Governour have asked us many Questions, and you cannot say you are dissatisfied in any one Particular: Now we would ask you one Question, Did Peter and Paul speak one Thing, and mean another when they spake?

Justice Jones. *Nay, they did not speak one Thing, and mean another.*

Answer. Then do not thou make Meanings to their Words.

Justice Jones. *I shall not do it.*

After their Examination, they were detained some Time in a neighbouring Alehouse, and then by the Justices Order set at Liberty, having had an Opportunity in the Alehouse to declare the Truth to the People who followed them from the Justices, and heard them with much Attention, being much satisfied with what they had before heard at the Time of their Examination at the Justice's House, where the Room was full of People.

Imprison-
ments.

Thomas Holmes, for speaking to the Priest at the Steeple-house at Curwent in Monmouthshire, was imprisoned by Order of the Justices. During his Confinement, John Brown going to visit him, was also detained, and both of them the Day following, were sent away with a Pass. This Thomas Holmes is said to have been the first Preacher among the People called Quakers in Wales.

Elizabeth Richard, of Cardiff, Widow, for speaking to a Priest in the Steeple-house at Swansey, after the Worship there was ended, was struck by one of his Hearers with a Bible, and afterwards sent to Prison, but released without any legal Trial.

Thomas John and Toby Hodges were committed to Prison by a Warrant expressing that they had called two Priests of Cardiff, Dumb Dogs and Hirelings. The Warrant was granted by George Morgan, one of the Bayliffs of Cardiff, but Jenkin Williams, the other Bayliff, refused to meddle in the Affair, being conscious to himself, that those Priests did deserve the Characters given them. For a like Offence given to Benjamin Flower, another Priest in Cardiff, the said Toby Hodges and Dorcas Erbery, suffered Imprisonment many Months. For Causes of the like Nature, Thomas John Reinsbam was sent to Cardiff Goal, and Meredith Edward to the County Goal at Uske in Monmouthshire. At another Time the said Meredith, being brought before Robert Thomas, a Justice, he would not suffer Meredith to speak for himself, but took him by the Throat and struck him, and afterward sent him to Bridewell by a Warrant, signifying that he had called Griffith David, a Minister, Thief and Hireling, and that he denied the Lord's Supper. In the Bridewell he was cruelly whipt by the Keeper, whom the Priest had incensed against him. This Priest was known to be very greedy and covetous; he had been taken by some Neighbours in the Act of marking their Sheep for his own, for which they forbore to prosecute him in regard to his Function. About the same Time Matthew Gibbon, of Molton in the County of Glamorganshire, formerly a Captain, who in the Service of the Commonwealth had lost the Use of one Arm, went into the Steeple-house at Penmark with a Purpose to have cleared his Conscience to the People, but was presently dragged out, and sent to Cardiff Goal: An illegal Commitment, upon which they did not bring him to any Trial, but thus arbitrarily punished him with Imprisonment who had broke no Law. As

Whipping of
M. Edward.

Commitment
of M. Gib-
bon.

illegal

illegal was the beating and putting in the Stocks of *Mary Richard* and *Mary Moss*, for reproving one *John Cutts*, a Priest, it not appearing that they were so much as conven'd before any Magistrate.

W A L E S.
1658.

In this Year also, *Richard Moore*, for 7s. demanded for Tithes, had Goods taken from him worth 18s. Also *Walter Watkins* and his Wife, of *Sheer-Newton* in *Monmouthshire*, were imprisoned in the County Goal at *Uske*, for Tithes demanded by the Priest of about 20s. in Value. And in *Glamorganshire*, *David Jones* was imprisoned many Weeks, at the Suit of *Benjamin Flower*, Priest of *Cardiff*, for 4d. demanded for Tithe of a Garden, and 6d. for a Fleece of Wool.

Distresses for
Tithes,

In this Year also, were Sufferers by Distress of their Goods, for refusing to pay towards the Repairs of the Steeple-houses, *Walter Watkins*, of *Sheer-Newton* in *Monmouthshire*, *Matthew Gibbon* and *Edward Thomas*, of *Molton* in *Glamorganshire*, and *John Ap Evan David*, *Richard Moore*, and *Evan Morris*, all of *Radnorshire*; from which four last named, for Demands of 2l. 3s. Goods were taken to the Value of 4l. 7s.

and for
Steeple-house
Rates.

John Ap John was taken from a Meeting at *Cardiff*, by the Command of *Henry Griffith*, commonly called Captain *Griffith*, and brought before him, who having no Power to imprison him, sent some Soldiers with him to *Richard Sheers*, one of the Bayliffs of *Cardiff*, who being unwilling to meddle in the Affair, absented himself. The Soldiers then applied to the other Bayliff, *Roger Sheers*, who was not forward to act therein: Nevertheless, through much Importunity of the Priests, the said Bayliffs were persuaded next Day to send the said *John Ap John* to Prison, and together with him, *Francis Gawler*, *John Mayo*, and *Toby Hodge*, who had been at the same Meeting. They were continued a few Days in Prison, and then released without being brought to any Trial.

Imprisonment
of J. Ap John
and others.

ANNO 1659. In this Year *Elizabeth Holmes* was again imprisoned in the Dark-house at *Swansey*, as were also *Thomas Shaw* and *Roger Bouldbeth*, for their religious Testimony.

Sundry Impri-
sonments.

James Jones was committed to the House of Correction by the Mayor of *Haverford-West*, for standing before the Minister in the Steeple-house there, to the Amazement both of him and the People, as the Warrant of Commitment expressed it. For the like Cause *William Thomas*, of *Llandey* in *Pembrookshire*, was also imprisoned. In November, *William Griffith* went into the Steeple-house called *St. Mary's* in *Shrewsbury*, where he spake a few Words to the Priest, but was presently haled away and carried before the Mayor, who sent him to Prison for six Months.

In the same Year, in the Month called *January*, *Daniel Baker* publickly proclaimed the Testimony of Truth to the People in the Streets of *Shrewsbury*, a Service which he performed at the Hazard of his Life, the People sorely abusing him with Dirt, Stones, and Snow-balls. The like Concern he was under at several Times, and performed the same through a Multitude of Sufferings.

D. Baker
abused.

In this Year *Elizabeth Holmes* preached at many large Meetings in *Pembrookshire*; at one of which Meetings *Adam Hawkins*, Priest of *Haverford-West*, was present, and made at first some Opposition, but at length, being overcome by the Power of Truth, confessed that he did believe her to be a Woman that converted many Souls to God, and told her, if she would come to his Parish, he would give her Opportunity of speaking to the People. A short Time after, she, accompanied with *Alice Burket*, went thither, where they had a large Meeting at the House of *William Bateman*, but were taken thence by Officers, and brought before the Mayor and another Justice, who sent them to the House of Correction, where the Keeper at first talked roughly to them, but afterward, observing their Christian and innocent Deportment, became very loving and kind, permitting them to have Meetings in the Prison, where they were kept about fourteen Days till the Quarter Sessions. In their Imprisonment, *Hawkins*, the Priest, came to them, pretending he had no Hand in their Commitment, for which Deceit they reproved him, knowing that he had influenced the Magistrates

Services and
Sufferings of
E. Holmes
and A. Bur-
ket.

WALES.
1659.

Distresses and
Imprison-
ments.

Imprisonment
for refusing
to Swear.

Meetings
broke up by
Soldiers.

Distresses for
Steeple-house
Rates,
for Tithes,

and for
Absence from
the National
Worship.

on that Occasion. At Sessions they were called, and one of the Justices who committed them, being informed how the Priest had attempted to wipe off from himself the Imputation of their Imprisonment, openly said, that *The Priest would not let the Justices be quiet, till they sent them to Prison.* So the Justices gave the Priest a publick Reprimand for his Hypocrisy, and set the Women at Liberty. But a few Days after, the Mayor, whom *Alice Burket* had displeased by some Words she spake to him in the Street, sent her again to *Bridewell*, and after she had been there two Days, sent her out of the Town by a Pass, but she had not gone far before the Officers left her to go whither she would.

Lewellyn Jones, Philip Lewis, Evan Philip, and William Pierce, of the Parish of *Rudree* in *Glamorganshire*, had their Goods taken from them for a Fine of half a Crown each, for *absenting themselves from the Parish-Church, and not coming thither to the publick Worship.* Also *William Bateman*, for permitting a Meeting at his House, was committed to Prison. Likewise *Howel Jones*, for not putting off his Hat, suffered Imprisonment at *Treganan*.

John Thomas, an honest labouring Man, of *Godclift* in *Monmouthshire*, being chosen Constable, refused not to have served that Office; but because he could not for Conscience-sake take an Oath to qualify him for the same, was sent to Prison, and there detained four Months, to the great Damage of him and his Family.

On the 20th of the Month called *February*, the Friends being peaceably and religiously assembled in their own hired House, were insulted by several Soldiers of the *Irish* Brigade, headed by a Serjeant, and attended by a Rabble of rude Boys with Clubs; they forced the Friends out of the Meeting-place, and gave them many Blows and other Abuses, and when the Serjeant was asked, *By what Authority he so acted?* he laid hold on his Sword, saying, *By this Authority.* After the like Manner were several other Meetings broke up about the same Time.

In this Year also, *Richard Moore, John Ap Evan David, and John Berks*, all of *Radnorshire*, for 6s. 8d. demanded of them toward the Repairs of the Steeple-houses, had Goods taken from them to the Value of 14s. 4d.

ANNO 1660. *John Williams*, of *Llandilo*, for a Demand of 14s. for Tithes, had an Horse taken from him worth 4l.

Hard was the Case of *William David*, of *Cardiganshire*, a poor Man with a large Family of five Children, who rented some Land of but 50s. per Annum, for which the Tithe-claimers made a Yearly Demand of 20s. for Tithe, and took from him five Times that Value, so that his Loss for the Tithe was double his Rent. For the like unreasonable Claim the next Year, they took from him two Cows, whose suckling Calves for lack of Sustenance died.

John David, of *Radnorshire*, for 5s. 2d. demanded for Tithes, had taken from him a Bullock worth 2l. 6s. 8d.

Margaret Watson, of *Lannano*, Widow, for 4s. demanded for Tithes, had a Cow taken from her worth 40s.

Miles Sykes, of the same, for 3s. claimed for Tithes, had a Cow taken from him worth 3l. This was a poor Man who had several small Children, and only that Cow.

In RADNORSHIRE, the several Persons following, for a Fine of 9s. each, imposed on them for Absence from the National Worship, had their Goods taken by Distress, as follows, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
From <i>Richard Moore</i> , Goods worth	1	4	0
<i>David Crowther</i> ,	0	15	0
<i>James Miles</i> ,	2	6	0
<i>John Bevan David</i> ,	1	16	8
<i>Jane Clayton</i> Widow,	2	13	4
<i>Owen David</i> ,	1	0	0
<i>Henry Clayton</i> ,	2	0	0

Carried over 11 15 0

	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	11	15	0
From Edward Evans, Goods worth	2	16	8
David Meredith,	1	16	0
David Powell,	1	16	0

WALES.
1660.

For Fines of 4 l. 10 s. 0 d. Taken 18 3 8

From Edward Sikes, for a Fine of 13 s. for Absence from the publick Worship, Goods were taken worth 1 l. 10 s. There were also thirty two Persons excommunicated for the same Cause.

Excommunica-
tions.

In MERIONETHSHIRE, in the Month called *August* this Year, about fourteen Friends being met for religious Worship, were assaulted by *Alban Vaughan*, and several rude Persons armed with Swords, who haled them out of the Meeting-place, and threatened to carry them to *Carmarthen* Castle, being twenty six Miles off, but after they had driven them (frequently striking them with their Swords) about two Miles, they let them go: But, a few Days after, the same Party of armed Men on Horseback, came to the several Dwellings of those whom they had before so abused, and haled them out by Force, some out of their Beds, wounding, beating, and bruising several, and drove them along on Foot before their Horses, twenty Miles, to a Town called *Baala*: Four of them were required to take the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing it, were committed to the Goaler's Custody, who put Fetters upon them, and caused them to go iron'd twelve Miles to Prison, where he kept them with others of their Friends, above twenty in all, about fifteen or sixteen Weeks, not suffering any to carry them Food or other Necessaries, and taking away their Bibles, Inkhorns, Knives, and Money, and daily insulting and abusing them in a barbarous Manner. The Names of those who suffered under that tyrannical Goaler were, *Thomas Lewis*, *Rice Jones*, *John Humphry*, *William Jones*, *John Meredith*, *Joane Owen* Widow, *Samuel Humphry*, *Robert Owen*, *John Williams jun.* *Thomas Ellis*, *Lewis Ap Humphry*, *Joane Humphry*, *John William*, *Owen Lewis*, *John Evan*, *Hugh Ap Rees*, *Meredith Edward*, *Katharine Williams*, *Evan Jones*, *Owen Humphry*, *Richard Jones*, *William Ap Rees*, and *Henry Thomas*. Several of the said Persons, during their Imprisonment, had their Cattle seized on in great Numbers, about six Hundred and fifty Head of Cattle in all, which were driven to *Baala*, and there sold, and the Money disposed of at the Pleasure of the Prosecutors, without rendring any Account thereof to the Owners.

Assault by
armed Men.

Cruel Usage
and hard Im-
prisonment of
many for re-
fusing to
swear.

Seizure of
their Cattle.

On the 15th of *October*, eighteen Persons for refusing to Swear, were committed to Prison, as appears by the following *Mittimus*, viz.

Commitment
of 18 Persons.

“ Glamorganshire *js.*

“ To the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal, or to his Deputies at
“ Cardiff in the said County, Greeting.

“ W H E R E A S the several Persons hereunder-named, were this Day brought before us, his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County, whose Names are hereunto subscribed, and were by us required, according to Law, in Obedience to his Majesty, to take the several Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, but they refusing so to do: These are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to will and require you to take and receive the Bodies of the said several Offenders hereunder-named into your Custody, and them safely to keep and detain until they shall be delivered by due Course of Law, or by Order of his Majesty: Hereof fail not at your Perils. Given under our Hands and Seals the 15th Day of *October*, in the twelfth Year of his Majesty's Reign, that now is, over *England*, &c. 1660.

Their Mitti-
mus.

“ RICHARD BASSET, WILLIAM HERBERT,
“ DAVID JENKIN, LAM. STRADLING.

“ The

WALES.
1660.

Imprisonments
for refusing to
swear.

At Shrews-
bury 23 im-
prisoned for
refusing to
swear.

Also H. Over-
ton and others.

Many taken
from their
own Houses
and for re-
fusing the
Oath sent to
Prison.

" The Prisoners NAMES,

" Edward Edwards, John Mayo, Toby Hodge, Jenkin Evans, William Harris,
" John Day, William Day, Price Robert, Walter Jenkins, James Thomas, James
" Lewis, Rowland Thomas, Thomas Williams, Evan Phillips, Thomas John, John
" Richard, Morgan Harris, and William Morrice."

In the same Month Francis Gawler and John Gawler were committed to Prison for refusing the Oath : And on the 24th of November, David Jones, a very aged Man, was committed to the Town Prison in Cardiff for the same Cause.

On the 5th of December, a Lieutenant and several Files of Soldiers came into the Meeting at Shrewsbury, with Swords drawn, and Matches lighted ; they put the Women out, and then guarded the Men to the Town-hall, where the Justices tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and upon their refusing to take it, the Mayor sent twenty three of them to Prison, where they lay fifteen Weeks : Their Names were, John Shield, Richard Moore, Oliver Atherton, Ralph Sharples, Jeremiah Owen, Thomas Rowley, Richard Ward, Thomas Woolrich, Henry Rawson, James Farmer, William Trattle, William Griffith, John Houston, Richard Ap Edward, John Millington, John Medlicott, Thomas Bracy, Joseph Fletcher, Abraham Poyner, Owen Roberts, Thomas Somerfield, John Farmer, and John Whitaker. On the next Day, Humphry Overton passing the Street, was taken and carried before the Mayor, who for refusing to Swear, sent him also to Prison. On the 13th Benjamin Boulton, James Brown, Benjamin Townsend, Richard How, and Brewen Sixsmith, came to visit their imprisoned Friends, and the Mayor tendred them the Oath, and sent them also to Prison. On the 16th Constantine Overton, Thomas Jackson, Thomas Jenks, and Thomas Studley, were taken out of their Meeting by the Captain of the Castle, and by the Mayor committed to Goal, where they were detained fourteen Weeks. On the same Day Jane Miller and Katharine Peers were committed to the House of Correction, and after three or four Days sent out of Town. Katharine Peers soon returned, and Deborah Briggs with her, and being both taken at a religious Meeting, were sent by the Mayor to the House of Correction, where they were several Weeks. On the 17th Thomas Hill declaring the Truth in the Streets at Shrewsbury, was carried to the Mayor, who tendred him the Oath, and sent him to Prison. On the 20th James Harrison, John Bancroft, Richard Buxton, and Thomas Bower, were taken out of a Meeting, kept all Night by Soldiers on the Guard, and much abused ; as was Samuel Snezall, whom they fetcht out of his own House : Next Day the Mayor tendred them the Oath, and committed them to Prison : And on the 30th of the same Month, he also committed to the same Goal Robert Astbury, of Coventry, who came to visit his Brethren there confined.

On the 12th of the Month called January, Francis Winson was taken out of his own House by Soldiers, kept two Days on the Guard, and sixteen Days more at the Marshal's House, where he was hardly used ; after which, he was brought before the Commissioners, who tendred him the Oath, and sent him to Prison, where he was put into the Dungeon : He was a poor labouring Man, had a Wife and five small Children, whose Subsistence depending on his Labour, they suffered much Hardship by Means of his Confinement. On the 20th Thomas Groom, of Weston-Lullingfield, for refusing to Swear, was sent to Prison ; as were on the next Day, for the same Cause, John Jefferies, Richard Clark, and Thomas Hole, who were taken from their own Houses in the Parish of Baschurch. On the 27th Edward Sharrot, John Paddy, William Paddy, John Shaw, and William Tusker, were taken at a Meeting in Edward Sharrot's House at Edgmond, by a Party of the Trained-Bands, and carried to Shrewsbury, where some Justices tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and sent them to the County Goal, where they were put into the Dungeon. On the 31st of the same Month, by Night, Walter Jenkins, John Williams, Philip Williams, and Charles Jenkins, were taken by Force out of their Beds, their Doors being broke open by a Party of Horse, several of whose Officers were Papists. They broke open

open their Coffers and Trunks under Pretence of searching for Arms, and though they found none, yet they drove the innocent Men several Miles through the Mire and Dirt in the Horse-path, to an old Castle, where they were detained till next Morning, when the Captain of the Troop came, and ordered a Party of rude Soldiers to conduct them to *Monmouth*. They drove them thither most inhumanly, through the dirty Road, not suffering them to go the Foot-way. The Mayor of *Monmouth*, upon their refusing to Swear, committed them to Prison, where they were confined in a filthy Place till the Town Sessions, at which the Oath being again tendred, and by them refused, they were recommitted to Prison, and with them *William Jobn*, who was taken from his Business in the Field by three Men without any Warrant, who carried him to a neighbouring Constable, and afterward to *Monmouth*. They were all kept in the aforesaid filthy Prison, till several of them fell sick through the Stench and Nastiness, and then the Goaler removed them to his own House. About the same Time *William Dawson*, of *Monmouth*, Haberdasher, *Thomas Morris sen.* *Walter Jobn*, *John Rosser*, and *Thomas Mortimer*, severally travelling on the Highway about their lawful Occasions, were taken up by Constables or others, and carried to a Justice of the Peace, who upon their Refusal to swear, committed them to Prison at *Usk*, where they were put into the Dungeon.

So violent was the Prosecution in *Wales* about this Time, that the very Name of a *Quaker* exposed a Man to the Loss of his Liberty, as appears by the following Order given to the Constables of *Glamorganshire*, viz.

“ *Glamorganshire* *js.*

“ *To the Petty Constables of N. Greeting.*

“ **B**Y Virtue of a Warrant to me directed from the Justices of the Peace of this County, to cause a sufficient Watch to be kept within your Parish, both Day and Night, and that there be Care taken by the Watch, that none of those called *Quakers* or *Anabaptists*, be suffered to go from one Parish to another, or to gather together to any Meeting or Conventicle, and that you cause all other Strangers passing by your Watch to be apprehended and brought before the Justices, and that you have a special Care to ensure all the *Quakers* within your Parish, until you receive farther Order from the Justices: Whereof fail not at your Peril. Dated under my Hand the second Day of February 1660.

“ *Signed by the High-Constable.*”

In Consequence of this Order, the following Persons were apprehended, some in their own Houses, others on the Highway, and some at their religious Meetings, and committed to *Cardiff* Goal, viz. *John Mayo*, *Jenkin Evans*, *Toby Hodge*, *Francis Gawler*, *John Richard*, *William Harris*, *John David*, *John Cupper*, *Rice Williams*, *William Williams*, *Roger Thomas*, *Walter Williams*, *David Jones*, *John Ap John*, *Michael Adams*, *Robert Thomas*, *Matthew Jenkin*, *James Thomas*, *James Lewis*, *Thomas Robert*, *Pierce Robert*, *John Johns*, *Edward Edwards*, *Jenkin Howel*, *William David*, *William Morris*, *Thomas Elliott*, *Morgan Harry*, *Thomas Williams*, *Jenkin John*, *Meredith Rice*, *Evan Philip*, *Rice Jones*, *Edmund Thomas*, *Thomas John*, *Edward Gibbon*, *Lewis Beck*, *David Williams*, *William Thomas*, *William Rice*, and *Philip Lewis*.

Leaving these last named forty Persons under close Confinement at *Cardiff*, we return to *Shrewsbury*, where the Number of Prisoners being also large, many of their Friends from distant Places came thither, drawn by the Force of *Christian Love* to visit and assist them. As soon as the Soldiers, who kept a Guard near the Prison, saw any of these Persons coming to visit the Prisoners, they immediately apprehended them, and carried them to the Mayor, who tendred them the Oath, and sent them also to Prison. Some of those who met

W A L E S.
1660.

Order to the
Constables.

Many com-
mitted by
that Order.

The Prisoners
Friends com-
ing to visit
them were also
imprisoned.

WALES.
1660.

with such Usage were, *John Whitehouse* of *Staffordshire*, *Ralph Jamin* of *Cheshire*, *William Hatton*, *Thomas Briggs*, and *John Wolley*, and also *John Humpston*, who had brought some Provisions for the Prisoners. Several Women also, who came to visit their Relations and Friends in the Prison, were not suffered, but put out of Town again by the Soldiers: One of them, *Constance*, Wife of *John Shield*, great with Child, had travelled above forty Miles on Foot to see her Husband, but being near the Goal, the Soldiers took her and kept her in the Cold till Night, and then with much Difficulty were persuaded to let her speak a few Words to her Husband at the Prison-door, after which they obliged her immediately to depart, and seek her Lodging where she could. The Prisoners also were frequently insulted and abused by the Officers and Soldiers, who several Times came in and searched their Boxes, Pockets, and Letter-Cases, and took away even their Food from them.

Abuse by Soldiers.

IN RADNORSHIRE, the religious Meetings of this People were broken up by Soldiers armed with Swords and Staves, who acted by Warrant from the Sheriff and a Justice of the Peace. These Soldiers were very abusive: One of them with his Sword struck a Friend on the Head, and cut his Hat almost through, and several others were unmercifully beaten by them.

Seven Persons
several Times
imprisoned.

ANNO 1661. IN MERIONETHSHIRE, *Samuel Humphry*, *Owen Lewis*, *Owen Humphry*, *John Evan*, *John Davis*, *Thomas Ellis*, and *Robert Owen*, were committed to Prison for refusing the Oath of Allegiance. After fifteen Weeks they were brought to the Quarter Sessions, and upon their Declaration of Fidelity set at Liberty. Shortly after, they were again imprisoned, but at the Sessions discharged. Before the Expiration of the Year, the last mentioned seven Persons were a third Time apprehended and committed to a Marshal's Custody, who shut them up in a nasty close Hole, where he had used to keep Hogs: The Swine, kept out of their usual Lodging, made such a Noise at the Door, and under the Wall, in the Night, that the Prisoners could take little Rest; and the Place was so exposed to the Weather, that when it rained they could not find Room to lie down, and were obliged to lade out the Water with Pails. In this Hog-house they continued ten Weeks, and then were removed to the Custody of another Marshal, twelve Miles farther from their Families: They refusing to submit to his illegal and exorbitant Demands, he shut them up in a Chamber, and there kept them two Days and two Nights without suffering any Manner of Sustenance to be brought them, and their Lodging for that Time was on the bare Floor without Straw. But at length, the Marshal finding their

Confined in an
Hogsty.

Their Patience.

Patience superior to his Cruelty, behaved himself towards them with some Humanity. *Samuel Humphry*, one of the Prisoners last mentioned, after thirty five Weeks, was taken by the Sheriff's Men, and put into the Common Goal, where he was nine Days, and as many Nights, without Bed or Bed-clothes, or so much as Straw to lie on, nor was his Wife suffered to bring him any Necessaries, and when one of his Servants came with some Provisions, they detained him in Prison: When he sent a Letter to some of the Magistrates concerning his illegal Usage, the Messenger who carried it was by them rewarded with Imprisonment. After seven Weeks patient Continuance under such barbarous Usage, they set him at Liberty.

Hard Imprisonment.

14 Sent to
Prison for
refusing to
Swear.

IN FLINTSHIRE, *John Baddely*, *John Newton*, *Owen Painter*, *Robert Pritchard*, *John Griffis*, *John Roane*, *Thomas Taylor*, *William Spann*, *Roger Urian*, *Roger Smith*, *Randal Croxton*, *Randal Weaver*, *Richard Andrews*, and *Henry Morry*, going towards a Meeting, near the Place were surprized by a Company of Soldiers, and carried before two Justices, who tendered them the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing to take it, committed them to the County Goal, where they were continued Prisoners two Years and an Half after.

14 More im-
prisoned for
refusing to
Swear.

IN DENBIGHSHIRE, in the Month called *May*, fourteen Friends were imprisoned for refusing to Swear, and remained about two Months in Prison, where they were kept very close, having nothing to lie on but Straw.

On

On the 4th of the Month called *June*, *William Gibson* being on the Road near *Stanton*, was taken by a Party of Soldiers, and with twenty three of his Friends, whom they had taken at several Places, sent to Prison, whence they were a short Time after conveyed eight Miles to the Assizes, and there discharged, all except *William Gibson*, whom the Judge recommitted, and he remained Prisoner a great while: During his Confinement he suffered much by the Keeper's Cruelty, who would not permit his Food to be carried to him, but he was obliged to draw it up with a Rope; the Keeper also threw him down a Pair of Stone Stairs to the bruising his Body very much, and beat him so on the Breast, that he was sick thereof near six Months of his Imprisonment. There was Prisoner at the same Time with him *John Moon*, who had been taken out of a Meeting at *Shrewsbury*.

WALES.
1661.

Suffering of
W. Gibson.

In *PEMBROOKSHIRE*, on the 6th of the Month called *August*, *Lewis David*, and *Susan* his Wife, *James Lewis*, *Alice Lewis*, *Evan John*, and *William Thomas*, of *Landeroy*, were committed to Prison till the next Assizes, where they were required to give Security that they would not go to any more Meetings, which refusing to do, they were recommitted. Soon after ten others were sent to the same Prison, viz. *Thomas Simons*, and *Jane* his Wife, with their three Sons, *Hugh*, *John*, and *Evan*; *Ursula Simons*, *Laurence Edward*, *Henry Edward*, *David Edward*, and *Margaret Edward*. The Usage they met with was very cruel, being imprisoned among Felons and Murderers, who took away their Food, pickt their Pockets, and many Ways abused them: The Hardships they endured in Winter for want of Fire, having no Place to make any in, was very pinching to several of them, who were both aged and sickly, and had their Hands and Feet much swelled, and their Bodies looking black: This they endured two Winters, and after about eighteen Months Imprisonment were brought to Trial at the Assizes, where the Evidence against them was found insufficient to convict them of being at the Meeting for which they were indicted; wherefore the Jury acquitted them, and they were speedily after discharged from their long unjust Confinement.

Imprison-
ments.

Great Hard-
ships in Pri-
son.

On the 21st of *September*, *William Bateman*, and *Sarah* his Wife, *James Jones*, *Henry Relief*, and *Elizabeth* his Wife, *Morgan Eyron*, and *Joane* his Wife, all of *Haverford-West*, were taken at a Meeting, and refusing to give Bail that they would have no more such Meetings, were committed to Prison, and kept their till the Assizes a Year after, where the Men were fined 5*l.* a piece, and the Women five Marks each, for Non-payment of which they were sent to *Bridewell*, and there detained three Months longer, except *William Bateman*, whose Fine they levied by Distress of his Goods, to the Value of at least 5*l.*

Commitments
from a Meet-
ing at Haver-
ford-West.

About this Time *Morgan Thomas* was sent to Prison by Judge *Morton*, for not taking the Oath of Allegiance, and was much abused in the Shire-hall at *Cardiff*.

About the 8th of *October*, *Thomas Holme* was taken out of a Meeting at *Cardiff* by armed Men, one of the Town-Bayliffs being with them, and carried to the Marshal's House, and next Day sent to the Common Goal without being examined by any Magistrate.

Arbitrary
Commitments.

On the 3d of *November*, *John Gawler* and *John James* were committed to Prison for being at a Meeting in *Cardiff*: On the 24th the Bayliffs of *Cardiff* came into the Meeting there, and sent all the Men to Prison, with one Woman, named *Elizabeth Richards*. In the same Month the Portrieve of *Swansey*, and his Officers, armed with Halberts and other Weapons, came to the Meeting there, haled out all the Men, and committed them to Prison. About the same Time *Watkin Richard*, *David Richard*, and *Robert Thomas*, were imprisoned under Ground in a Cellar four or five Months, without the common Benefit of Air allowed to Felons: Also a poor Woman, whose Husband was blind and unable to help himself, was shut up in a nasty stinking Cockloft many Weeks together. For being at a Meeting in the Parish of *Merther*, *Lewis Beck*, *John Harris*, *William Wilkins*, and *Jenkin Thomas*, were sent to the County Goal, where they were kept a Month in a nasty stinking Cellar, and not allowed the common

Many Impri-
sonments.

Three confined
under Ground.

WALES. common Benefit of Air, nor were any of their Friends admitted to visit or relieve them.

1661.

Other grievous
Sufferings.

IN DENBIGHSHIRE, on the 1st of December, *Bryan Sixsmith, William Lewis, William Kidder, John Ap Edward, Nathanael Buttel, Richard Humblock, Thomas Morris, Thomas Gwin, Hugh Davis, and David Thomas*, being met together in their own hired House at *Wrexham*, were pulled out by Soldiers, and carried before some Justices of the Peace, who sent them with a *Mittimus* from Constable to Constable, to the Common Goal at *Writthen*, several of them being very poor Men with large Families, who suffered much by their Confinement.

James Fletcher, coming to visit some of his Friends in Prison at *Wrexham*, was forcibly detained till a Warrant was procured to carry him before a Magistrate, who for his refusing to Swear, committed him also to Prison.

Edmund Williams, David Simonds, John Howel, and Richard Poole, were taken at a Meeting in the House of *William Bateman* in *Haverford-West*, and committed to the Town-Goal, and two Days after, being brought before the Magistrates, they sent the former three to the House of Correction, and ordered *Richard Poole* to remain in Prison till the Wind served to send him to *Ireland*, where he dwelt, and then to be whipt and sent thither.

On the 5th of the Month called *January*, two Men were taken at *Cardiff* Meeting, and carried to the Town-hall, where they were kept two Nights, and on the third Day one of them was committed to the County Goal, and the other constrained to go out of Town without speaking to any of his Friends in Prison.

E. Holme
visiting her
Husband in
Prison was
there detained.

On the 9th of the same Month, *Elizabeth Holme* came to *Cardiff* to visit her Husband *Thomas Holme*, who had been there in Prison three Months. The Magistrates hearing that she was come, made a strict Search after her, both at the Houses of her Friends and others, and imprisoned a Maid whom they suspected to know of her, for not informing them, as also a Watchman for not stopping her as she came into Town. They seized her Horse and Saddle, and committed the Person, who had her Horse in Custody, to Prison: As soon as the Bustle of their Search was over, the innocent Woman came of her own Accord to the Bayliffs, to demand her Horse and Saddle, informing them of the Cause of her Coming, viz. *To visit her Husband in Prison*: This was adjudged a Crime sufficient for her Imprisonment also, and accordingly her *Mittimus* was made, and she detained in Prison with her Husband.

A. Freeman
not suffered
to visit the
Prisoners.

About the same Time *Anne Freeman* came out of *Monmouthshire*, to visit her Friends in Prison, having travelled fourteen Miles on Horseback in wet Weather, and coming into Town was taken by the Watch, and was carried to the Bayliff, who ordered her to Prison for that Night, and next Day sent her out of Town by a Pass, and would not suffer her to see any of the Prisoners. Another Woman who had come six Miles on Foot to see her Husband, was denied that Favour, as were several other of the Prisoners Wives, who were neither permitted to see them, nor administer to their Necessities; nor were they suffered to have any Provision brought them, except what was handed over two Doors at a considerable Distance one from the other.

Wives not
suffered to
see their
Husbands.

William David, for refusing to Swear, was closely imprisoned two Weeks, *John Stevens* six Weeks, and *Morris Evans* seven Weeks.

Many grie-
vously beaten.

Beside the grievous Persecution inflicted on this People in *Wales*, under Colour of Law, many of them were grievously beaten and abused, to the Hazard of their Lives, by wicked Persons on the Road, who on Presumption of Impunity, made it their Sport to insult and abuse their peaceable Neighbours: Of those who suffered much by this Means were *John Humphreys*, and *Humphry Williams* at *Carmarthen*, *James Lewis* near *Tinby*, *Griffith Morgan*, and many others; and even some of the Priests struck several of them with their own Hands.

Premunire.

ANNO 1662. On the 8th of September, *James Pierson* was committed to *Carmarthen* Castle, under Sentence of *Premunire* for refusing to Swear, and from

from thence, after four Months, removed to the Goal at *Haverford-West*, where he remained Prisoner many Years. W A L E S.
1662.

In the Month called *August*, *Nell Woolford*, *Mary Edoe*, *Elizabeth Lunily*, *Nell Griffith*, and *Katharine Lockier*, all of *Haverford-West*, were brought before the Judge of Assize, who committed them to close Prison for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance. Five Women
sent to Prison
for refusing to
Swear.

In *September*, *Humphry Williams*, and *Rebecca* his Wife, *Abigail*, the Wife of *William Gray*, *John Howel*, and *Rebecca Williams jun.* as they were going to a Meeting in *Haverford-West*, were taken in the Street and imprisoned some Days. *William Evans*, *Rice Pritchard*, *Lewis Pugh*, *Richard Owen*, *Harry Thomas*, *David Powel*, and *Evan Harry*, were imprisoned at *Montgomery*, and very hardly used, lodging on the bare Boards, and having sometimes their Water kept from them. Sundry Impri-
sonments.

On the 16th of *November*, a Party of Soldiers came to a Meeting in *Shrewsbury*, their Captain having a Club in his Hand, with which he fell furiously upon the Friends, and his Soldiers following his Example, beat many, to the grievous bruising of their Bodies: After which, they dragged them by Force out of their Houses, and searched them, beating their Servants very inhumanly. Cruelty of
Soldiers.

Taken in this Year for Tithes, from *Thomas Somerfield*, of *Stanton*, for 3*l.* demanded, Goods worth 8*l.* Distress for
Tithes.

William Lewis, and *Margaret* his Wife, *Edward Evans*, and *Katharine* his Wife, were taken from their own Houses by order of the Justices in *Montgomeryshire*, and for refusing the Oath of Allegiance, committed to Prison on the 20th of *November* this Year, where the said *Edward Evans*, being an infirm Man, and unable to bear the Filth and Dampness of the Place, laid down his Life, the unwholsome Confinement there having hastned his Death. The rest were continuing Prisoners there five Years after. Death of
E. Evans.

About the Middle of *December*, *Hugh Davis*, *Humphry Wilson*, *Charles Lloyd*, *Cadwallader Edwards*, *David Griffith*, *Sarah Wilson*, and *Anne Laurence*, were taken from their several Families, and next Day, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, committed to close Prison, where, after about three Years Confinement, the said *Humphry Wilson* died of a Distemper occasioned by the Coldness and Unwholsomeness of the Place. Seven taken
from their
Families, and
for refusing to
Swear sent to
Prison.
Death of
H. Wilson.

The Persons next under-named had a Fine of 4*l.* each, imposed on them at Sessions for refusing to Swear, for which Fines were taken

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>Richard Moore</i> , an Ox worth	4	10	0
<i>Edward Evans</i> , two Cows worth	6	0	0
<i>Evan Morris</i> , two Kine worth	6	0	0
<i>Griffith Morris</i> , two Oxen worth	7	0	0
<i>Edward Stevens</i> , two Kine worth	7	0	0
	30	10	0

Distresses

John Ap David, *Edward Morgan*, *David James*, and *David Rice*, suffered three Weeks Imprisonment for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance. and Imprison-
ments for
refusing to
Swear.

John Williams, for 1*l.* demanded for Tithes, had an Horse taken from him worth 4*l.* *William Thomas*, of *Llandewy* in *Pembrookshire*, for 40*s.* claimed for Tithes, suffered Distress of an Horse and a Mare worth 5*l.* *John Evans* and *Thomas Ellis*, for Tithes valued at 1*l.* 10*s.* per Annum, had taken from them fifty one Loads of Rye, Oats, and Barley, worth 10*l.* Also *Owen Lewis*, for 1*l.* 15*s.* Tithe, had a Cow taken from him worth 2*l.* 15*s.* He was also excommunicated for refusing to pay 2*d.* for a Demand of Tithe for Cheese. Distresses for
Tithes.

Excommuni-
cation for 2*d.*

Taken also for Tithes,

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From <i>Evan Morris</i> , for 2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> demanded, an Ox worth	3	10	0
<i>Meredith Oliver</i> , for 5 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i> demanded, a Cow worth	3	6	8

*Distresses for
Tithes.*

WALES.
1662.

Distresses,

	Brought over	6	16	8
From the Widow Oliver, for 10 s. demanded, Goods worth		1	15	0
John Evans, for 1 l. 1 s. demanded, Goods worth		5	8	0
David Williams, for 8 s. demanded, Goods worth		0	16	0
		<hr/>		
For 4 l. 14 s. 8 d. demanded,	Taken	14	15	8

James Miles, of Harman, for a Lamb demanded for Tithes, had an Horse taken from him worth 1 l. 14 s. The same Man having but one Goose, had that taken away under the Pretence of Tithe of his Geese. Henry Clayton, for a Lamb claimed, had Goods taken from him worth 10 s.

Execution,

Owen Humphry and Samuel Humphry were prosecuted in the Sheriff's Court, and had Execution awarded against them, by which their Cattle were seized for a small Demand of Tithes.

and Imprison-
ments for
Tithes.

In MONMOUTHSHIRE, Charles Jenkins, of Cumcarvan, suffered seven Months Imprisonment in the Goal at Usk for not paying Tithes, where Matthew Gibbon and Philip Williams were his fellow Prisoners; the latter of whom was detained several Years, from a Family of five Motherless Children, for Tithe of a very little Value. Peter Lee, of Henstock, was cast into Prison, and lay near two Years, for refusing to pay about 30 s. demanded for Tithes.

Taken for not paying Steeple-house Rates,

Distresses for
Steeple-house
Rates.

		l.	s.	d.
From Richard Moore, for 1 l. demanded, Goods worth		1	3	0
Evan Morris, for 3 s. demanded, Goods worth		0	5	0
John Ap Evan, for 4 s. 8 d. demanded, Goods worth		0	8	0
Edward Stevens, for 9 d. demanded, Goods worth		0	2	0
		<hr/>		

For 1 l. 8 s. 5 d. demanded,

Taken 1 18 0

Excommuni-
cation.

For the same Cause Constantine Overton, Humphry Overton, and Francis Windsor, were Sufferers at Shrewsbury: Also Thomas James was excommunicated, and kept close Prisoner sixteen Months.

Prisoners for
their Hats.

ANNO 1663. William Fortune, John Davis, and Humphry Williams, were imprisoned some Days in the Month called April, for appearing at the Assizes in Pembrookshire with their Hats on.

Imprisonments
for refusing to
Swear.

In the Month called May, Meredith Edward, John Bowen, and Roger Colebeach, were Prisoners in Cardiff Goal, having been committed thither for refusing the Oath of Allegiance. They were kept in a Dungeon three Yards and an Half under Ground, where was also a Felon, who before had the Liberty of coming up in the Day-time, but after their Commitment that Liberty was denied both to them and him, though it was a Privilege usually given to the worst of Malefactors.

Distresses for
Tithes.

Taken for Tithes, from John Shimpston, for 5 l. demanded, Goods worth 11 l. and from Edward Jefferies, for 6 s. demanded, Goods worth 1 l. 10 s.

Imprison-
ments.

About the Month called January this Year, John Moone, David Powel, John Rumson, John Perks, Charles Davies, Evan Pugh, Peter Price, Evan Oliver, David James, John Davis, Roger Price, Thomas Bywater, Richard Moore, Evan Morris, David Meredith, David Oliver, Hugh William, John Wooley, James Jones, Robert Watkins, Meredith Oliver, Samuel Price, and John Davies, were committed to Prison in Radnorshire until they should take the Oath of Allegiance, which yet had not been tendered them before their Commitment. As David John was travelling on the Highway between Shrewsbury and Radnor, he was apprehended by one Oakley, and by him committed to the Custody of a Marshal, who took away his Horse, assigning no Cause for so doing, but that he was a Quaker, and must not travel.

On the 26th of the Month called February this Year, being the Time of the Assizes, certain Officers, who said the Mayor and Judges sent them, came

to a Meeting at Shrewsbury, and carried thence to Prison John Millington, Constantine Overton, James Farmer, Thomas Jackson, William Trattle, Abraham Poyner, Richard Turner, and John Houston. In this Year also, were taken by Distress, from James Farmer and John Farmer, of Condover, for Absence from the publick Worship, Goods worth 17s.

W A L E S.
1664.

ANNO 1664. Richard Ward, of Milnard, for 40s. demanded of him for Tithes, had Goods taken from him worth 8l. Also John David was excommunicated, and many Months imprisoned, for refusing to pay Tithes.

Sufferings for
several Causes.

In the last Year Thomas Somerfield, of Stanton, had Goods worth 4s. taken from him for Absence from the National Worship: And for the same Cause William Trattle, Thomas Jackson, and Constantine Overton, had Goods taken from them worth 2l. 2s.

Thomas Sankey was summoned to appear at the Assizes for absenting from the publick Worship, where he was not called to answer, yet was he committed to Prison on the 15th of the Month called March 1664.

In the same Year Samuel Davis was taken on the Highway by Soldiers, and carried to a Justice, who tendred him the Oath, and sent him to Prison. In like Manner David Davis, Thomas Lloyd, David Powel, and Richard Moore, were taken up as they travelled on the Highway, and were by a Justice of the Peace committed to Prison for refusing to Swear, where they lay several Years.

ANNO 1665. Constantine Overton and Abraham Payner, Freemen of the Corporation of Shrewsbury, were disfranchised, and denied the Privileges they were intituled to, because they refused to Swear, and suffered religious Meetings to be held at their Houses. The said Constantine Overton and Humphry Overton were imprisoned for opening their Shops on the Day called Christmas-day; as were also Thomas Brassey and Job Selby, Servants to the said Constantine.

Freemen dis-
franchised.

Imprisoned for
opening Shops.

It happened on the 1st of the Month called June this Year, that Richard Davis, of Poole, having had some Difference with a neighbouring Justice of the Peace, that Magistrate avenged himself, and vented his own private Spleen, by tendring to the said Richard the Oath of Allegiance, and sending him to Prison, where he continued some Years.

A Justice per-
verting Law
for his own
private Spleen.

ANNO 1666. In the Month called June, Owen Jones, Evan David Griffith, and Watkin David, were taken out of their Houses, and carried before some Magistrates, who, upon their Refusal to take the Oath of Allegiance, committed them to Prison. In the next Month Elizabeth Hughes, an elderly Woman, carrying some clean Linen to her Husband then in Prison, was taken by certain rude Persons, and had before a Justice, who tendred her the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing it, committed her to Prison, where she lay a long Time. And in this Year Hugh Lloyd, of Haverford-West, died a Prisoner for his Testimony against Swearing: For which Cause also, Edward Lord was a Prisoner at Haverford-West. And in the same Year Hugh Simonds and Laurence Edwards, were committed to Prison for Absence from the National Worship.

Imprisonments
for refusing to
Swear.

Death of
H. Lloyd.

ANNO 1667. Taken by Distress for Tithes, from Thomas Simonds, of Pincheston, for 10s. demanded, Goods worth 1l. 6s. And from Laurence Edward, for 18s. 8d. demanded, Goods worth 5l.

Distresses for
Tithes.

In this Year Edmund Wijs, John Rogers, Rice John, John Husband, Thomas Wijs, Thomas Griffith, Evan John, and James Lewis, were committed to Prison for absenting themselves from the publick Worship: And for the same Cause David Hitchins was imprisoned by a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo.

Imprisonments
for Absence
from the pub-
lick Worship.

ANNO 1668. William Dawson and Roger Scudamore, of Monmouth, were sent to Prison by the following Mittimus, viz.

“ Monmouth Town fs.

“ WE require you to receive into your Custody the Bodies of the
“ Prisoners under-named, and them safely detain until they shall give
“ sufficient Security to be, and personally appear at the next General Quarter
“ Sessions of the Peace, to be held for the said Town, to answer for their
“ Contempts

Mittimus of
W. Dawson
and R. Scuda-
more.

WALES.
1668.

“ Contempts of the lawful Commands of the Magistrates of this Town, and
“ other Misdemeanours that then and there shall be objected against them, and
“ in the mean Time to be of their good Behaviour: Fail not, &c. Given
“ under our Hands and Seals, 25^o die Decembris 1668.

“ THOMAS WILLIAMS, Mayor,
“ PEREGRINE LEWIS, Bayliff.”

“ NAMES,

“ William Dawson and Roger Scudamore.

This *Mittimus*, couched in general Terms, conceals the real Cause of their Commitment, which was no other than that they had opened their Shops on the Day called *Christmasts-day*, against which there was no express Law, nor was it any sufficient Cause for their Imprisonment.

Distresses for
Tithes.

		l. s. d.		
ANNO 1670. Taken this Year for Tithes,				
From Lewis David, of Llandewy, for 5 l. demanded,	}	12	0	0
Goods worth				
William Thomas, of the same, for 2 l. demanded,	}	5	0	0
Goods worth				
Lewis James, for 1 l. demanded, Goods worth		8	0	0
		<hr/>		
For 8 l. demanded,	Taken	25	0	0

In this Year also, many of this People suffered very grievous and exorbitant Distresses for their religious Meetings, of which we have the following Instances, viz.

Grievous
Cases.

I. THOMAS SIMONDS, of *Pinchbeston* in *Pembrookshire*, for suffering Meetings at his House, had his Cattle taken away at one Time worth 24 l. which were sold for 8 l. At another Time, some Household Goods of his worth 26 s. were sold for 7 s. And at a third Time, Corn, Hay, and Thatch, taken from him to the Value of 20 l. were sold for 5 l. of which one Third was ordered at Sessions to be given to the Poor, but they conscious of the Sufferer's Innocence, from whose Charity they had often found Relief, refused to receive any of that Money when tendred them.

II. WILLIAM THOMAS, of *Llandewy*, being fined 5 s. was met on the Highway by the chief Constable, a petty Constable, and an Informer, who demanded the Horse he rode upon; he asking for their Warrant, was answered with, *Sirrah, do you question the King's Power?* And at the same Time was struck on the Head and Shoulders with a great Staff, and pluckt from his Horse, the Constables looking on, but not daring to gainsay the Act of their Master, the Informer. The Horse was taken away for the 5 s. Fine, and afterward sold for 3 l. 1 s. 4 d. Beside which, they took from him a Pan worth 1 l. 1 s.

III. LEWIS DAVID, for 20 l. Fine, had his Corn and Hay seized to the Value of 25 l. and sold for 8 l. being all the Effects he had in the County of *Pembrook*, but he having an House and Land in *Carmarthenshire*, the Justices sent a Certificate thither, by which his Cattle, Corn, Hay, and Bedding there, were seized to the Value of 36 l. more, which they also sold for 8 l. so that having taken the Value of 61 l. for a Fine of 20 l. they yet pretended to want 4 l. of their first Demand.

IV. CADWALLADER THOMAS, near *Baala* in *Merionethshire*, for Meetings held at his House, had Cattle taken away worth 55 l. He was also turned out of a Farm by his Landlord, for no other Cause than his being a *Quaker*, and suffering Meetings at his House, whereby he sustained much Loss.

V. ELIZABETH WILLEY, for a Fine of 15 s. had her Oxen taken away to the Value of 15 l.

VI. JOHN

VI. JOHN THOMAS, who had never been at any more than two Meetings, was fined 15s. for which they took from him a Yoke of Oxen and an Horse worth 11l.

VII. EVAN REES, for a Fine of 5s. had two Yoke of Oxen taken away to the Value of 11l.

VIII. From JOHN AP EDWARD, they took a Mare, Bridle, and Saddle, worth 3l. upon a false Information of his having been at a Meeting, where he was not.

IX. From MAURICE STARFIELD, they took Brags and Hay to the Value of 3l. 10s. which they sold for 5s.

X. From OWEN THOMAS, they took an Horse worth 40s. for a Fine of 5s.

XI. From EVAN JOHN, of Llanichvan, they took Goods worth 1l. 6s. 8d. and sold them for 6s.

XII. From JOHN HUSBAND, of Narbeth, they took all his Corn and Hay to the Value of 25l. And at another Time Cattle worth 1l. 9s.

XIII. From MARGARET PHILIPPIN Widow, Cattle worth 9l. 6s.

XIV. From REES JOHN THOMAS, they took two Cows worth 4l.

XV. From LEWIS HARRY, a Cow worth 1l. 15s.

XVI. From THOMAS DAVIS, his Bed-clothes worth 14s.

XVII. From LEAK RICHARDS, DAVID EVAN, and HENRY LEWIS, Goods worth 1l. 2s.

XVIII. From EVAN PROTHERAH, of Narbeth, Goods worth 8l. 10s.

XIX. From LITTLER THOMAS, a poor Labourer, for a Fine of 5s. his Bed-clothes worth 15s.

XX. From EDWARD PRICE, Cattle worth 8l.

These Distresses, for Meetings this Year, amounted to 274l. 16s.

In the Month called May this Year, Friends being in their religious Assembly at Shrewsbury, one Robert Sowtrel, a Cooper, a profane wicked Person, the only Informer there, (for that Office was held so scandalous, that he could not procure, among all the Sons of Belial in the County of Salop, any one that would be a Partner with him in it) came into the Meeting, and went and informed the Mayor, who, with some of his Officers, also came. The Mayor sat down, and asked the Informer, *Which was the Preacher?* Did not you, said he, tell me that they were preaching? No, replied the Informer, they were not. The Mayor then ordered the Friends Names to be taken, and demanded 5s. of each of them, which they refusing to pay, he left a Constable with some others to guard the Door, and went Home again. Some Time after he sent for four of the Men, to whom he tendred the Oath of Allegiance, and committed them to Prison. Then he fixed the Fines of the rest, which were levied by Distress as follows, viz.

WALES.
16701

At Shrewsbury Meeting.

Distresses.

	l.	s.	d.
Taken from Anne Hall, Goods worth	0	6	0
Thomas Mansell,	0	15	0
William Trattle,	0	15	0
John Millington,	0	10	0
Francis Leeves,	2	0	0
John Houlston,	0	8	0
Sarah Moore,	0	5	0
William Paine,	1	10	0
Owen Roberts,	0	14	0
Humphry Overton,	2	10	0
Thomas Overton,	0	18	0
Constantine Overton,	0	16	10
Abraham Poyner,	0	1	10
	11	9	8

WALES:
1670.

The next Week, another Meeting being held in the same Place, the Informer came again, and then went to the Mayor and Town-Clerk, who found the Assembly sitting in Silence. The Mayor being asked, sat down, but soon became impatient, and bid them preach: At length, one of them speaking some Words, he ordered their Names to be taken, and fined them, and a few Days after Distresses were made, by which were taken,

Distresses.

	l.	s.	d.
From Anne Hall, Goods worth	0	17	0
William Trattle,	0	18	0
William Paine,	2	10	0
Constantine Overton,	4	0	0
Thomas Mansell,	0	15	0
Sarah Moore,	1	5	0
Owen Roberts,	1	0	0
	11	5	0

Fines and
Distresses.

On the 19th of the Month called July, the Friends being kept out of their Meeting-house, met in the Street, when a Woman prayed, and exhorted the People to fear the Lord, and to turn from the Evil of their Ways: The Informer pulled her down by Violence, and a Serjeant took her into Custody: In the Evening, being had before the Mayor, she and others were fined, and Distresses were made on the Goods of her and Thomas Mansell, to the Amount of 1 l. 10 s.

Sickness of an
hardned In-
former.

The Informer was now become so hardned, that he threatned, if it were in his Power, he would prosecute the Quakers to Death, adding, that if he should live to the Age of Methuselah, he would continue to be the Quakers Tormentor. But it pleased God to stop the Violence of his Procedure, by visiting him with a fore Sickness near unto Death, by which he was debilitated, and brought so low, that the Meetings were not much disturbed by him afterward.

Fines and
Imprison-
ments.

At the Assizes in the last Year, John Swinshead, Robert Baker, William Tasker, and John Baker, were committed to Prison by Judge Twisden for their Non-conformity to the National Worship. And in this Year Constantine Overton and John Millington were fined for opening their Shops on the Day called Christmas-day, and the former had Goods taken from him to the Value of 1 l. 2 d. and the latter of 22 s. It was remarked, that Adam Holland, the Warden, one of them who made Distress on the said Constantine, was afterward so troubled in Mind, that he could not rest till he had returned him his Goods again, saying, that *It was a greater Burden to him to keep them, than it was for Constantine to lose them.*

Ellinor Ellis, a poor Woman, partly supported by the Charity of her Friends, for frequenting religious Meetings, had her Bed-clothes, Apron, Knitting-work, and some Books, taken away by Distress.

Prosecution
for a Burying.

Peculiar was the Case of William Davis, of Talgorth, and Philip Williams, who were imprisoned on a Prosecution for having buried their Dead in a Burying-ground which their Friends had purchased, and made Use of for that Purpose. One Lewis Morgan, the King's Attorney, who dwelt near the Burying-ground, was active in prosecuting them, and threatned to have the dead Bodies, which had been interred, taken up again.

Imprisonment.

In this Year John Brown was committed to Prison by the Justices of the Assize at Cardiff, for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance.

Sufferings for
Tithes.

ANNO 1671. Henry Lewis, of Redstone, for 25 s. demanded of him for Tithes, had his Goods taken away to the Value of 5 l.

In this and the two next preceding Years, Lewis David, of Llanderwy, had Goods taken from him for Tithes, to the Value of 1 l. 19 s. 8 d. And for the same Cause were taken from Lewis James, of Langobnan, much Corn and other Goods.

In

IN GLAMORGANSHIRE, *John Bowen* was imprisoned eight Months on an Execution for Tithe, which had been illegally obtained. But when some of his Relations seemed determined to have a Re-hearing of his Cause, the Priest, his Prosecutor, being sensible of the Injustice done him, came to the Prison, and by a Release in Writing, discharged him.

WALES.
1671.
Unjust Imprisonment.

ANNO 1672. In this Year, by King *Charles the Second* his *Letters Patent*, were discharged

Out of MONMOUTH Goal, *Anthony Ridley* and *Lewis Thomas*.

Out of CARMARTHEN Castle, *James Pilton*, who had lain in close Confinement there ten Years under Sentence of *Premunire*.

Release of Prisoners.

Out of MONTGOMERY Goal, *Charles Lloyd*, *William Lewis*, *Cadwallader Edwards*, *Hugh David*, *Richard David Griffith*, *Margaret Lewis*, *Sarah Wilson*, *Anne Laurence*, *Thomas Lloyd*, *Richard Davis*, *Watkin David*, *Owen Jones*, and *Elizabeth Hughes*.

Out of the Common Goal for the County of SALOP, *Owen Roberts*, *Samuel Everett*, *Ralph Alcott*, *Thomas Overton*, *John Houlston*, *Richard Lownes*, *John Simpson*, *Joseph Fletcher*, and *Richard Hoogen*, who had been there about seven Years, being taken at one of their religious Meetings: Also *William Paine*, who had been there near six Years, and *James Farmer*, who had been there imprisoned above five Years.

ANNO 1673. For being at a religious Assembly in the Parish of *Brofely* in the County of *Salop*, were taken

	l.	s.	d.	
From <i>Roger Andrews</i> , Cloth, Serge, Silk, and other Goods, worth	45	6	6	Distresses for Meeting,
<i>Thomas Hughes</i> , Household Goods worth	3	4	6	
<i>Anne Hemlock</i> Widow, Pewter and Brass worth	2	13	0	
	51	4	0	

In or about this Year, *Edward Griffith*, for 5s. demanded for Tithes, had Goods taken from him worth 40s.

Henry Lewis had several Cart-loads of Corn taken from him by the Servants of *Michael Owen*, Priest of *Narbeth*, so that he was obliged to buy much Corn for the Use of his Family, whose necessary Provender had been taken away under Pretence for Tithes.

Cadwallader Thomas, for 3s. demanded for Tithes, had Goods taken from him worth 30s. and *Hugh Griffith*, for a Demand of 4s. Goods worth 20s.

ANNO 1674. On the 3d of the Month called *May*, *John David*, *Robert David*, *Robert Owen*, *Cadwallader Thomas*, and *Hugh Roberts*, were taken by the Sheriff with a Process, and committed to *Dologelly* Goal, being indicted at Sessions some Time before for their Absence from the National Worship.

Commitments by Sessions Process.

On the 7th of the Month called *March*, toward the Close of this Year, *David Maurice*, of *Pen-ybout* in *Denbighshire*, being in Commission of the Peace for the County of *Montgomery*, came with fourteen or fifteen Persons, most of them armed, to an House called *Cloddian Cochion*, within the Corporation of *Poole*, where a small Number of Friends were met together in Silence. He required them to depart, but one of them, *Thomas Lloyd*, desiring him to stay a little, he and his Company sat down, and the said *Thomas Lloyd* spake to them concerning the Nature of true Religion and Worship: Whereupon the said Justice fined him 20l. for preaching, and several others for being at the said Meeting. Shortly after, he issued Warrants for Distress, some of which were executed by his Clerk, and others of his Servants, and by Virtue thereof, were taken from *Thomas Lloyd*, four Cows and a Mare worth about 16l. And from *Thomas Lewis*, at whose House the Meeting was, six Cows, two Oxen, and two Heifers. The said Justice's Clerk also took without Warrant, from *Charles Lloyd* and *Thomas Lewis*, each of them an Horse. Also the Officers of the Parish of *Myrod*, took from *Charles Lloyd*, of *Dolobron*, by Warrant from the

Fining of T. Lloyd.
Distresses.

WALES. the said *David Maurice*, ten young Beasts. For being at the said Meeting, *David Jones*, of *Branyarth*, had taken from him a Brass Pan, and for the pretended Poverty of others, three Cows and an Ox.

1674.

In this Year *Lewis David*, of *Llandewy*, had taken from him by the Servants of *Evan Harris*, Tithe-farmer, and *Nicholas Roberts*, Priest, about a fifth Part of all his Corn. Also *Evan Protherab*, for Tithes of 20s. Value, had taken from him three Cart-loads of Hay and Corn.

Distresses for
Tithes.

ANNO 1675. *Jane Simons*, of *Puncheston*, had a Lamb taken from her for Tithes; and *Joseph Griffith*, for 8s. demanded for Tithes, had an Horse taken from him worth 30s. Also *John Burgh*, *Maurice Cole*, *Lewis David*, *Henry Lewis*, and *William Jenkin*, were Sufferers this Year for Tithes.

Death of
T. Hammond
in Prison.

Thomas Hammond, of the Parish of *Montgomery*, was committed to the County Goal by a Warrant from two Justices, on the Statute of 27 Hen. 8. after a Prosecution in the Court of the Bishop of *Hereford*, for Tithes of a trifling Value, at the Suit of *Edward Herbert*, Baron of *Cherbury*, and *Roger Jones*, Priest of *Berrine* and *Montgomery*. The Prisoner being sick, made divers Applications to his Prosecutors, but could obtain no Liberty till Death released him on the 28th of the Month called *January* this Year, leaving behind him a Widow and four Children. During his Confinement he was not so much as once permitted to go and visit his Family.

Sufferings for
divers Causes.

For being at religious Meetings in the Town of *Baala*, were taken from *John David*, two Yoke of Oxen, five Kine, a Mare, and a Saddle, worth 30l. and from *Edward Price*, Goods worth 15s.

In this Year *Edward Lord*, of *Haverford-West*, for refusing to take the Oath of a Bayliff, was fined 5l. and had taken from him a Silver Tankard, Cloth, and other Things worth about 11l.

For Absence from the National Worship were taken by Distress from *John Burge*, *Henry Lewis*, and *Evan Protherab*, Goods worth 1l. 15s. And for the same Cause *Owen Roberts*, of *Salop*, and *Anne* his Wife, and *Thomas Oliver*, of *Condover*, were committed to Prison by a Writ de *Excommunicato capiendo*.

Robert Richard, a poor Labourer, of the Parish of *Bettus* in *Merionethshire*, at the Complaint of *Owen Edwards*, Priest of that Place, was committed to the County Goal by *William Salisbury*, a Justice of the Peace, for being absent twelve Days from his Parish-Church.

Terrible
Threats.

ANNO 1676. *Cadwalader Thomas*, *Rowland Ellis*, *Lewis Robert*, *Hugh Robert*, *Evan Rice*, *Edward Rice*, *Griffith John*, *Gainer David*, and *Elizabeth Williams*, were imprisoned on an Indictment for not resorting to their Parish-Church, and at the Assizes, held the 6th of the Month called *August*, at *Baala* in *Merionethshire*, were brought before *Kenrick Eyton* and *Thomas Walcott*, Judges, who tendred them the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, which they refusing to take, the Judges in open Court declared, that *In case they did refuse the Oaths a second Time, they should be proceeded against as Traytors, the Men to be hanged and quartered, and the Women to be burned*. On the 1st of *September*, the Oaths were again tendred them, and being again refused, though they made a solemn Declaration of their Allegiance to the King, and Abhorrence of Popery, they were remanded to close Imprisonment, and strictly kept as Felons or Traytors, and during a very great Frost were not allowed the Benefit of a Fire-place: The Goaler awed by the Threats of one *Maurice Jones*, a sottish Parson of *Dologelly*, where the County Goal was, durst not grant them that Favour for fear of being complained of to the Judges. *Edward Rice*, one of the Prisoners, being above sixty Years of Age, and unable to bear the Severity of the Cold, died on the 17th of *December*, during the Extremity of the Frost.

Close Confinement.

Deaths of
E. Rice.

Distresses for
Steeple-house
Rates.

Taken by Distress about this Time, for refusing to pay the customary Assessments toward repairing the Steeple-houses, from *Henry Lewis*, of *Narbeth*, a Bible and a Shovel worth 6s. 2d. from *Jane Simons*, of *Puncheston*, Iron worth 5s. and from *William Thomas*, Goods worth 2l. 18s.

Griffith

Griffith Roberts and *Hugh Rice* were imprisoned on a Writ *de Excommunicato capiendo*, at the Suit of *Maurice Jones*, Priest of *Dologelly*. The said *Hugh Rice*, having in Compassion taken Care of the Children of a deceased Friend of his, was sued by the Parson for a *Mortuary*, and excommunicated.

WALES,
1676.

Imprisonments
by a Writ de
Excom. Cap.

ANNO 1677. On the 18th of the Month called *July*, two Priests, viz. *Hugh Wilson*, Priest of *Trefeglwys*, and *Isaac Lloyd*, Priest of *Llanidles*, gave Information of a Meeting at the House of *John Jarman* at *Llanidles* in *Montgomeryshire*; upon which, the Mayor with Constables came thither, and committed seven of the Assembly to Prison, and fined others, who had their Cattle seized for their Fines, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
<i>John Potts</i> , one Cow and six young Beasts worth	12	10	0
<i>Griffith Jarman</i> , five young Beasts worth	7	10	0
<i>John Roberts</i> , a Cow worth	3	0	0
<i>John Jarman</i> , a Cow worth	2	10	0
<i>David Owen</i> , an Horse worth	2	0	0

Distresses for
Fines.

27 10 0

On the 2d of *December*, *John Burnyeatt* preaching to an Assembly at *Ma-butleth* in *Montgomeryshire*, one *Oliver Morris*, an Informer, came in with Constables, and after making some Disturbance, went out again and seized all the Friends Horses they could find; but that being done without Warrant, they were soon restored to the Owners. Next Day the Informer went to *William Pugh*, of *Mathaven*, a Justice of the Peace, who came with him, and meeting *John Burnyeatt* and *Thomas Ellis* on the Road, caused them to go back to an Alehouse, where the Informer and the Justice's Bayliff swore against them for preaching at the said Meeting: Upon which, a Warrant was immediately granted to take away their Horses, Saddles, and Bridles, which was done, and they left to travel on Foot. *Burnyeatt's* Mare, worth about 8*l.* died in the Possession of those that took her, about an Hour after. And the other's Horse and Furniture, valued by themselves at about 14*l.* they kept.

Horses seized.

Lewis David, *Henry Lewis*, and *John Burdge*, had their Goods distrained for refusing to pay toward the Charge of Arms and Ammunition for the County *Militia*.

Distresses for
the Militia,

ANNO 1678. In this and the next preceding Year, several Persons in *Pembrookshire* had taken from them for Tithes, Corn, Hay, Lambs, and other Goods, of the several Values following, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
<i>Lewis David</i> of <i>Llandewy</i> ,	16	4	6
<i>Jane</i> and <i>Thomas Simonds</i> ,	6	3	6
<i>Lewis James</i> of <i>Langolman</i> ,	4	12	6
<i>William Thomas</i> of <i>Larwadden</i> ,	12	3	6
<i>Evan Protherab</i> of <i>Narbeth</i> ,	1	9	0
<i>Maurice Coale</i> ,	9	0	10
<i>John Harris</i> of <i>Hasket</i> ,	7	1	0
<i>John Burge</i> of <i>Haverford-West</i> ,	0	5	0
<i>Richard Evan</i> of <i>Llandifillo</i> ,	1	10	0
<i>Hugh Simonds</i> and <i>John Simonds</i> ,	7	15	6
<i>Henry Lewis</i> of <i>Narbeth</i>	4	11	1
<i>Evan Simons</i> of <i>Herring's-Moat</i> ,	0	14	8
<i>Maurice Llywellin</i> ,	2	18	10
<i>William Jenkins</i> of <i>Tenoy</i> ,	0	14	0
<i>David Laurence</i> ,	1	17	0
<i>Lewis Harry</i> of <i>Robeston</i> ,	2	10	0
<i>James Thomas</i> of <i>Haverford-West</i> ,	7	1	6
<i>James Thomas</i> of <i>Llanboydy</i> ,	3	7	0
<i>Edward</i> and <i>John Griffith</i> ,	3	6	0

and for Tithes.

93 5 5

WALES.
1678.

Distresses for
Absence from
the National
Worship.

In these two last Years also, were taken for Absence from the National Worship,

From Lewis David, of Llandewy, Goods worth	2	11	8
William Owen, of Spittle	0	12	6
Evan Simons, of Herring's Moat, a Colt and a Mare worth	3	18	0
James James, Maurice Coale, and Richard Hay	1	7	0
Richard White, George Lewis, and John Lewis	4	6	6
Mary Sywelin, John Harris, and Evan Thomas	0	19	8
Evan John, William Thomas, and William Hillay	2	0	8
Thomas Willis, of Reignallon	0	16	0
David Laurence, of Pencheston	0	11	0
	15	1	0

ANNO 1679. Evan David, John Evans, and John Lloyd, were committed to Carmarthen Castle for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, as appears by the following Mittimus, viz.

"Carmarthen ss.

"To the Sheriff of the said County of Carmarthen, and to the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal at the Castle, and to their Deputy and Deputies there.

Mittimus of
E. David and
others.

WHEREAS the Persons that stand hereby convicted by the Names of Evan David, of the Parish of Newburch in the County of Radnor, Yeoman, John Evans, of the Parish of Nanimill in the said County of Radnor, Carpenter, and John Lloyd, of the Parish of Thiffert in the County of Radnor, Glover, being apprehended as Strangers and Vagabonds, and not only found without Pass or Testimonial, but justly suspected to be Persons disaffected to the present Government of this Realm, and to the Protestant Religion as it is by Law established, and being by the Constables of Llandewy brought before us, whose Names are subscribed, being Justices of the Peace of the said County; and the said Evan David, John Evans, and John Lloyd, being not able to give any good Account of themselves, and contemptuously refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance, being lawfully tendred according to an Act of Parliament in the third Year of King James, in that Case made and provided: These are therefore, in Pursuance of the said Act, and in the King's Majesty's Name, to will and command you to receive into your said Goal the Bodies of Evan David, John Evans, and John Lloyd, and them to keep in safe Manner until they shall be released by the Course of his said Majesty's Laws: Hereof fail you not, as you will answer the Contrary at your Perils. Given under our Hands and Seals the 10th Day of June 1679.

"THOMAS GWYNNE,
"ROGER MANWARING."

Perversion of
Justice.

Thus were honest and reputable Persons, whose Habitations were well known, prosecuted under a Pretence of being Strangers and Vagabonds, a fictitious Cause, merely to give a Colour for their being apprehended and carried before the Justices, who, though they knew the Men and their Conversation, and that they were perfectly peaceable and honest, took Occasion, from their known Principle against all Swearing, to ensnare them with the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, which latter Oath they seldom tendred to those who themselves well knew to be either Papist or Popishly affected. So that by an

apparent

apparent Partiality and Perversion of Justice, the Innocent suffered hard and unjust Imprisonments, while the Guilty escaped altogether free and unquestioned.

ANNO 1683. On the 29th of the Month called February, the Friends of *Radnorshire* being assembled at one of their Monthly Meetings for Church-Affairs in the Parish of *Llandegley*, *John Davies*, High-Sheriff of the County, with *James Price*, his Deputy, came into the House when one of them was kneeling at Prayer. The Deputy and a Constable charged them all in the King's Name to go with them, and forbore laying Hands on them till the Conclusion of their Meeting; and then the High-Sheriff swore many Oaths, that they should go with him: But it not appearing that he had any Warrant, one of the Friends questioned his Authority: This made him angry, and he took the Person and pulled him out by the Arm, and the Constables and Officers forced him with the rest to a neighbouring Alehouse, where they shut them up in a Room, and set a Guard on them. In the mean Time the High-Sheriff rode three Miles to fetch *Edward Davies*, a Justice of the Peace, his Kinsman, to his Assistance. Being returned, they examined them of their Names and Habitations, and told them, *There was a Process against them*, and so continued them sitting up all Night with a Guard in very cold Weather, and early next Morning the Sheriff sent seven of them several Miles over the bleak Hills to Prison, namely, *John Lloyd*, *Hugh Lloyd*, *Edward Jones*, *Roger Hughes*, *Henry Cleaton*, *Anne Cleaton*, *Mary Cleaton*, and *Amy Phillips*. Two others of them, *Nathan Woodliff* and *Owen Humphry*, were by Warrant next Morning carried before the said *Edward Davies*, to answer such Things as should be objected against them. But he not well knowing how to proceed, ordered them to continue in the Constable's Custody, and to be brought again before him at *Knighton* about a Week after; when *Samuel Powel*, another Justice, being with him, they fined *Owen Humphry* 20*l.* as a Preacher, for praying at the Meeting: And at the same Time committed them both to Prison for refusing to take the Oath of Allegiance. At the next Sessions the Oath was tendered to the other seven also, and all of them were remanded to Prison.

WALES,
1683.

Rough Pro-
ceeding at
a Monthly-
Meeting.

Seven Persons
sent to Prison.

ANNO 1684. In the Month called May, *Peter Price* had been a Prisoner above three Years, at the Suit of *Robert Lucy*, Impropiator, on a Judgment out of the Court of Great Sessions against him for not paying Tithes: He continued Prisoner above three Years after, being eighty six Years of Age.

Imprisonments
for several
Causes.

In the last mentioned Month also, *John Watson*, *Robert Watson*, and *David John Phillips*, had been imprisoned a Year and three Quarters in *Presteign Goal*, on Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*.

About the same Time *Robert Cornock*, *Rice Harris*, *Thomas William*, *Thomas Kent*, *Henry Evan*, *Thomas David*, *Griffith Morgan*, *Richard White*, *James Lewis*, and *Elizabeth Howel*, were committed to Prison at *Haverford-West*, for Absence from the National Worship: And on the 14th of the Month called July, for the same Cause *Evan Bowen*, *John Howel*, *Howel Griffith*, and *John Hillina*, were committed to the same Prison: Where were also imprisoned on Sessions Procefs, *William Owen*, *Maurice Owen*, *Francis Simonds* and *Philip Price*: As were also upon Writs de *Excommunicato capiendo*, *Henry Cleaton*, *David Williams* and *John Lewis*.

In CARDIGANSHIRE, *William Lloyd*, *Evan David*, and *John Rhyiberth*, were committed to *Tregannon Goal*, on Procefses for Absence from the National Worship, and were kept close Prisoners there by the Space of twelve Weeks. For the same Cause also, *William Lloyd* and *Evan William* were imprisoned seven Days at *Llanbadarn*.

Evan Morris, upon an Information of a Meeting at his House, was taken up by Warrant from *Hugh Bodarda*, a Justice of the Peace, and carried to *Carnarvan Goal*, and there detained till the next General Quarter Sessions, at which the Oath of Allegiance was tendered him, and he, for refusing to take it, was committed to Prison.

Humphry

WALES.
1684.

Humbry Williams was Prisoner in *Carmarthen* Goal about a Year, for Absence from the National Worship, and *Thomas Griffith* about three Months for the same Cause.

In *DENBIGHSHIRE*, *Thomas Owen*, chosen to the Office of a Constable, and refusing to Swear on that Occasion, had also the Oath of Allegiance tendered to him, and thereupon was committed to Prison.

For refusing to contribute toward the Charges of the *Militia*, several Distresses were made, by which were taken

Distresses for
the Militia,

From <i>David Hutchins</i> , of <i>Tenby</i> , Goods worth	l.	s.	d.
<i>William Jenkins</i> , of the same	1	16	0
<i>John Burges</i> , of <i>Haverford-West</i>	1	9	0
<i>Arthur Bewes</i> , to the Value of	0	2	1
	0	4	0
	3	11	1

Taken this Year for Tithes, in Corn, Hay, Wool, Lambs, &c. in the County of *PEMBROOK*,

and for Tithes.

From <i>George Lewis</i> , of <i>Llandefillo</i> Parish, to the Value of	l.	s.	d.
<i>Lewis David</i> , of <i>Llandewy</i> Parish	0	6	0
<i>Thomas Griffith</i> , of <i>Llangkeven</i> Parish	6	4	0
<i>Lewis James</i> , of <i>Langolman</i> Parish	2	10	6
<i>Thomas Simons</i> , of <i>Pincheston</i> Parish	2	1	4
<i>Hugh Simonds</i> and <i>John Simonds</i>	1	13	10
<i>William Jenkins</i> , of the Town of <i>Tenby</i>	2	10	0
<i>Edward Lord</i> , of <i>Rudbarton</i> Parish	0	1	6
<i>James James</i> , of <i>Wiston</i> Parish	5	0	0
<i>William Owen</i> , of <i>Spitbill</i> Parish	0	4	6
<i>Richard Hay</i> , of <i>Ilmiston</i> Parish	0	7	0
	4	9	0
	25	7	8

In *CARMARTHENSHIRE*,

From <i>Francis Howel</i> ,	l.	s.	d.
<i>James Thomas</i> , of <i>Llanboydy</i> Parish	1	19	4
	3	0	6
	4	19	10

ANNO 1685. That the Reader may be enabled to form a just Idea of that meek, patient, and Christian Spirit, with which this suffering People were endued, we shall next transcribe

" A LETTER from the Yearly-Meeting in WALES, to the
" Yearly-Meeting at LONDON.

" Dear Friends and Brethren,

A Letter from
the Yearly-
Meeting in
Wales, to the
Yearly-Meeting
in London.

" WE dearly salute you with the Salutation of Life and Salvation, which
" at this Time the Lord hath visited us withal, and hath manifested his
" Life and Power unto us, and among us, to the great Comfort and Satis-
" faction of our Souls, who are made living Witnesses of his Mercies and
" Goodness that endures from Generation to Generation, and unto us who are
" gathered by his powerful Arm of Salvation it is revealed in this latter Age of
" the World; Blessed and Praised be his Holy Name for ever, for he hath
" not left himself without a Witness in all Ages and Generations; and we
" with you that are called in this latter Age, to bear Witness to his Great
" Name and Blessed Truth, let us bear it patiently, faithfully, and truly, in
" this our Generation, that those that are yet unborn may see and know that
" we

“ we are a People gathered and chosen by the Lord to place his Name and
 “ Fear in, and that in the pure Fear of the Living God, we all may dwell
 “ together in Love and Unity, out of all Variance and Discord of what Nature
 “ soever, that they may know that we are his Disciples, and Followers of the
 “ Lamb Christ Jesus, who is our Teacher and Instructor: God grant that we
 “ may all more and more learn of him, and be as so many *Calebs* and *Joshuas*,
 “ that may follow him fully and faithfully in these trying Days, which are
 “ come to try the Sons and Daughters of Men, and to shake the sandy Founda-
 “ tions of the hypocritical Generation, that are not built upon that Founda-
 “ tion, that our God hath laid already, which Foundation standeth sure.
 “ They that keep upon this Foundation, they will stand in these trying Days,
 “ though the Winds blow, and the Storms rise, and the Floods beat, the God
 “ of *Jacob* hath ordained this Building to stand, the Gates of Hell shall not
 “ prevail against it. Blessed for ever be the Name of our God, that he hath
 “ made us acquainted with this Foundation, and preserves his People upon it.

“ Dear Friends and Brethren, we are sensible of your Love, Care, Labour,
 “ and Service for the Lord’s Truth and People: Our Prayers are to the God
 “ of Heaven, that he may more and more give you Wisdom, Strength, and
 “ Courage to go through all your Undertakings: Your Care hath been great:
 “ Your Service is acceptable and good to many. The Lord reward you in
 “ your own Bosoms.

“ These may acquaint you that we are all well, and the Lord’s Presence is
 “ among us: His Truth is dear to us: Our God gives Acceptance with
 “ himself and Neighbours: They be slow to lay violent Hands upon us:
 “ We are in Love and Unity together, condescending one to another in Love:
 “ Dark and foul Spirits are shut out from among us. For these his great Mercies,
 “ we, in Humility of our Minds, return Thanks, Praises, Honour, and Glory
 “ to his Great Name, who is worthy of it from us and all his People, now and
 “ for ever.

“ Signed on Behalf of the said Yearly-Meeting,

From our Yearly-Meeting near
 Dologelly, the 2d of the
 Second Month 1685.

“ By WILLIAM HUMPHREYS.”

From the Year 1687 to 1690. Taken for Tithes in Corn, Hay, Lambs,
 Wool, and other Things,

	l.	s.	d.	
From Lewis David, of Llandewy Parish, to the Value of	16	13	10	Account of Tithes of Corn, &c.
Lewis James, of Llangolman Parish	2	3	2	
Thomas Simons, of Penchreston Parish	4	1	6	
George Lewis, of Llandisfillo Parish	7	18	6	
Thomas Griffith, of Llangkeven	7	18	8	
Evan Bowen, of Prendergrast	6	11	0	
Philip Rudderch, of Killycomb	5	7	10	
Morgan John, and Elizabeth John	1	3	6	
John Robins, and Griffith Jones	9	11	8	
Morgan Thomas, of Swanzey	3	0	0	
Robert Owen, of Llandervel Parish	0	11	8	
Humphry Owen, of Llanglywin	2	1	6	
Lewis Owen, of Dologelly	1	18	0	
Rowland Ellis, of the same	1	10	0	
Rowland Owen, of the same	3	7	0	
David Rice, of Llandewy Parish	8	2	8	
John Poyer, of Roboston Parish	11	15	0	
Francis Lloyd, of Prendergrast Parish	3	1	0	
Owen Humphry, and Pierce Morris	1	10	2	
Evan Edwards, of Lanysmach	2	12	0	

WALES.

1687 to

1690.

From Peregrine Musgrave, of Martin's Parish

John Howell, and John Simons

Edward Lloyd, of Rudbaiton

Morgan Thomas, of Swansey

Maurice Humphrey, and Ellis Roberts

David Jones, and Rice Evans

Charles Lloyd, of Dolobran

Evan Davies, and John Richards

Amos Davies, and Susan Mansell

John Meredith, and William Reynolds

David Reynolds, of Cherbury, and John Reynolds

Brought over

100

18

6

2

18

3

10

0

0

7

6

0

3

0

3

0

C H A P. XXXVI.

WAR-
WICK-
SHIRE.

1656.

Oppression of a
poor Widow.

WARWICKSHIRE.

ANNO 1656.

WE begin our Relation of Sufferings in this County with an Act of Oppression, exercised by an opulent Landlord on a poor Widow, his Tenant. This Widow, whose Name was *Meeke*, had for some Time professed the Principle of the *Quakers*, for which Cause only, her Landlord, *Walter Chetwind*, of *Grinton*, Esq; had arbitrarily thrust her and her Children out of her House, throwing her Goods into the Street, and when she insisted on his Father's Promise to her of living there as long as she pleased, paying the Rent, which she punctually did, he replied, *You were not a Quaker when my Father made that Promise*: And though she had been at the Charge of ploughing the Land, he forbade her sowing it, saying, that *If she sowed, he would reap*. Thus he, though a professed Protestant, put in Practice one of the worst Tenets of Popery, viz. *That Faith is not to be kept with Hereticks*.

Distress for
Tithes.

ANNO 1657. *George Wyatt*, of *Brales*, for 5*l.* 10*s.* demanded for Tithes, had Goods taken from him worth 11*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*

ANNO 1658. *Edward Corbett*, for a Demand of 3*l.* for Tithes, had his Goods taken by Distress to the Value of 6*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* And *William Burroughs* the Younger, of *Geadon*, for 5*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* demanded for Tithes, suffered a Seizure of his Goods to the Value of 12*l.* 15*s.*

A poor Man
ejected by his
Landlord for
being a Qua-
ker.

Samuel Smith, a poor Tenant of Sir *Peter Wentworth*, who had promised him, that *He should occupy his Tenement and Land at 8*l.* per Annum Rent during his Life*, which the poor Man depending on, had laid out much Money upon the Premises, was suddenly and violently dispossessed of all by his said Landlord, who gave no other Reason for his so doing, than that *He had affronted the Ministers, and kept Meetings at his House*, adding, that *He would see all the Quakers banged, before they should meet in any House of his*. Thus the Fury of an ignorant Zeal, transported him beyond the Bounds either of Reason, Justice, or Humanity.

Distresses for
Tithes.

ANNO 1659. *William Heath*, of *Birmingham*, for Demands of 6*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* for Tithes, had Goods taken from him worth 7*l.* Also *Samuel Smith* had several

several Fleeces of Wool taken from him by the Servants of the Priest of *Walston*, without producing any Order or Warrant for so doing.

Thomas Palmer, *William Mans*, and *Richard Mills*, were subpana'd into the *Exchequer*, at the Suit of *John Dyke*, a Priest, (who for his vicious Life had been formerly ejected) for Tithes valued at 14 s. pretended to be due to the said Priest, and they appeared accordingly, but refusing to swear to their Answer, were imprisoned for Contempt in a low Dungeon at *Warwick*, twenty Steps deep, where the said *Robert Palmer* lay ten Months, and the said *Mans* nine Months.

Robert Hackly, of *Grindon*, for refusing to pay Tithes to *Gregory Kent*, Priest of that Place, had his Goods and Chattels seized by Bayliffs, and his Person imprisoned about nine Months.

It happened in this Year, that *William Dewsberry* being in a Meeting at the House of *William Reynolds*, a Constable came with a rude Multitude armed with Swords and Staves, who pulled the Friends out of the House, and beat and abused some of them; they also brake the Windows of the House in the Constable's Presence. The like Treatment the Friends met with when religiously assembled in the House of *William Bayley*.

In this Year also, *Richard Wilson*, of *Colesthill*, was sent to Prison by Justice *Hopkins* for calling the Ministers Priests, an Appellation to which their Practice of taking Tithes and Offerings from the People did justly intitle them. In the same Year *John Ludford*, of *Hurley*, was fined 10 s. for refusing to Swear at the Manour Court of *Kingsbury*; and in the Beginning of the next Year he was again fined 40 s. for the like Offence at the same Place.

ANNO 1660. On the 17th of the Month called *August*, *John Carkitt*, *Edward Carkitt*, and *Edward Walker*, were taken from their Work in Harvest, at the Suit of *William Bishop*, of *Over-Brayles*, an Impropiator, for Tithes, and committed to the County Goal at *Warwick*, where they were kept the first two Nights in a Dungeon twenty Steps under Ground. On the 7th of *November*, *George Wyatt*, of *Brayles*, was committed to the same Prison, at the Suit of the same Impropiator.

On the 9th of *December*, *Humphry Becland*, *Richard Woodward*, and *John Tombs*, were forcibly dragged out of the Meeting at *Alcester*, and carried before Justice *Lee*, who abused them both by Words and Blows, and not admitting them to speak in their just Defence, committed them to Prison, where the cruel Goaler put them in Irons, and shut them up in the Dungeon among Felons. Thus they were kept close Prisoners from one Assizes to another, and never brought to any legal Trial. On the 16th of the same Month *Edward Bourne*, taken by a Captain and Horsemen at a Meeting at *Eatington*, was committed to the same Dungeon, and there laid in Irons.

ANNO 1661. In the Month called *May*, *William Mans*, of *Radway*, was committed to the County Goal, at the Suit of the Priest of that Parish, who had for several Years taken away more than Half the Corn growing on his Land under Pretence of Tithes. And in the Month called *July*, *John Humblings*, of *Halford*, was committed to the same Prison for Tithes, at the Suit of *George Granger*, Priest. About the same Time also, *William Lucas*, of *Lambcott*, was imprisoned at the Suit of *John Brent*, Priest of *Eatington*, for small Tithes, viz. Lambs, Wool, Pigs, &c. and was detained in Prison about eleven Years.

On the 28th of *September* this Year, *Thomas Goodaire* preaching in a Meeting at *Upper-Eatington*, was carried before one of the Deputy-Lieutenants, who tendred him the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing to Swear sent him to *Warwick* Goal, and with him one *Thomas Cooke*, who, in Love to *Goodaire*, voluntarily accompanied him from the Meeting to see the Issue of his Examination. At the next Quarter Sessions the Oath was again tendred to them both, and they were sent back to Prison as under Sentence of *Premunire*, though never legally convicted by any Jury. When they had been long in Prison, they represented to some of the persecuting Justices the Hardship of their Case, and

W A R-
W I C K-
S H I R E.
1659.

Imprisonment
in a deep
Dungeon.

Suffering for
Tithes.

A Meeting
insulted.

Imprisonment
for calling the
Ministers
Priests,

and for Tithes.

Several impri-
soned in the
Dungeon, and
laid in Irons.

Sufferings for
Tithes.

Case of T.
Goodaire and
T. Cook re-
presented to
the Justices.

WAR-
WICK-
SHIRE.
1661.

The Justices
deriding An-
swer.

Several whipt
as Vagrants.

Others impri-
soned.

Giving of
Thanks at
Meat, called
a Conventicle.

Illegal Impri-
sonment.

Imprisonments
for Meeting.

Many taken
from their
Houses and
Employments.

140 Prisoners
in the Common
Goal, 59 of
them in the
Dungeon.

Death of
M. Page.

Narrative of
the Sufferings
of D. Lucas.

and that there was a just Judge in Heaven, who beheld their innocent Cause. To which Representation they received the following prophane and derisive Answer, viz. *We shall exercise the Power we have on Earth against you, and when you shall come to Heaven, you may take your Turn to exercise your Power there.* So they also continued Prisoners about eleven Years.

On the 14th of October, Samuel Hatton, William Hilkington, Elizabeth Kitchen, and Susan Ward, were taken at a Meeting, and ordered to be whipt as Vagrants, though their Habitations were well known not to be far off: Two others, Simon Horn and William Jakeman, being Townsmen, and taken at the same Meeting, were committed to Prison.

Richard Field, Thomas Field, William Parr, Henry Jackson, William Dewsberry, William Bavington, Paul Newman, John Carpenter, James Wagstaff, William Lucas, and Mary Cooper, were taken from their Houses and Employments, and some of them from an Inn, (where their giving Thanks before Supper, was called *preaching at a Conventicle*) and committed to Prison. After some Time of Confinement they were sent for to a Justice at an Inn, who, for their refusing to Swear, sent them to Prison as under Sentence of *Premunire*, and there they lay above ten Years, though never legally tried or convicted. We find also imprisoned, for meeting together for the Exercise of religious Worship, the several Persons following, viz. Samuel Griffold, Simon Cartwright, George Harris, George Adams, Edward Whatcott, William Cockbill, Edward Whitehead, Thomas Wincott, Matthew Kent, Adam Gibbs, Thomas Whitehead, Joseph Cockbill, Nathanael Newton, and Gabriel Simmons. Some Time before this, Thomas Rawlinson travelling on the Highway between Tamworth and Coventry, was apprehended by one John Millian, of Coventry, who took from him an Horse, and a Mare, and twenty Shillings in Moneys, and then carried him before the Magistrates of Coventry, who, because he refused to Swear, sent him to Prison. For the same Cause also, the same Magistrates committed to Prison Richard Cubban, Thomas Chaddock, Anthony Bickley, and Thomas Suffolt, who were travelling toward London: Also Robert Meeke, Walter Newton, John Baldwin, William Baldwin, John Murdock, and John Heacock, who were taken from their own Houses, John Moore as he was going to Market, and Thomas Pawley coming from thence.

Several of the Meetings in this County, as at Long-Compton, Radway, Colehill, and Badgely, were broken up by armed Men, who took away all the Persons they found there, and carried them to the Justices, by whom they were sent in great Numbers to Prison, so that there was at one Time in the Common Goal at Warwick, about one Hundred and forty of this People, fifty nine of whom were put together in a dark close Hole or Dungeon under Ground, where they had not Room to lie down one by another; and being constrained to ease their Bodies in the same Place, the Stench became exceedingly offensive, by which, and for want of Necessaries, which were not suffered to be brought them, several of their Healths were much impaired. One of them, Stephen Potter, being extremely weak, his Wife, being a poor lame Woman, and her Sister, coming to the Prison to visit him, were taken and sent to the House of Correction, and there whipt; nor were the other Prisoners Friends and Relations suffered either to visit or administer to them: For attempting which, Prudence Gamboll was sent to Prison; as was Mary Page, Wife of William Page, of Wellingborough in Northamptonshire, who after two Years Imprisonment died.

On the 18th of October, Dorothy Lucas Widow, of Upper-Eatington, above sixty Years of Age, was arrested at the Suit of one Underbill, Renter of Tithes under William Gibson, Impropiator, and committed to Prison: A Narrative of her Sufferings is here subjoined. After fifteen Weeks Confinement in this County she was removed to the Fleet in London: While she lay there, an Execution was sued out against her, and on the 7th of the Month called May 1662, the Prosecutor took away three Mares, a sucking Colt, one Stone-horse, and a Gelding, with four Pair of Geers, worth at least 45^l. all for one

one Year's Tithe of 8*l*. Value : And on the 18th of December following, her Son being at Market at Stratford upon Avon, and having with him two Geldings, one Mare, and two Quarters of Barley, the Prosecutor seized them all, with the Horses Accoutrements, to the Value of 18*l*. and upwards, for the Tithe of that Year, being as before but of 8*l*. Value. In the Year 1663, Gibson, her Prosecutor, entred her Land in Time of Harvest, and took away her Corn at his Pleasure, in some Places Half of it : He also took an Horse worth 4*l*. and at his Departure said, *He must have more, for that would only pay Charges.* The like exorbitant Seizures he also made in the Year 1664 and 1665.

On the 30th of the Month called January 1661, John Croxall was arrested at the Suit of several Tithe-farmers, who kept him in Warwick Goal eighteen Months, and while he was Prisoner caused some of his Corn to be taken off the Land for their Use.

About the same Time, the following Persons, upon Prosecutions in the Ecclesiastical Court for Tithes, were excommunicated, and by Writs de Excommunicato capiendo committed to Prison, viz. Abraham Jordan, Richard Summerland, Edward Clifton, Edward Young, William Jakeman, Thomas Fincher, and Peter Buckstone, the last of whom, after two Years Confinement, died a Prisoner.

ANNO 1662. On the 16th of October, Robert Field, of Upper-Eatington, above ninety three Years of Age, was arrested for Tithe by one Gibson, an Impropiator, and Underbill, his Tithe-Renter : The old man, unable either to walk or ride, was drawn in a Dung-Cart to the County Goal at Warwick. The Prosecutor's Claim was for two Years Tithe of Land but of 11*l*. per Annum Rent. While the poor Man lay in Goal the Prosecutors seized some of his Corn in the Field, and two Stone-horses, worth 13*l*. which they found at an Inn : And in the following Year they took from him three Mares. So that this ancient Man suffered by Loss of his Effects abundantly more than the Value of the Tithes claimed, beside the cruel Imprisonment of his Person, which was aggravated by the Absence of his two Sons, who had been taken from him, and imprisoned as before mentioned, at a Time when he was unable to go out of Doors, and had no other Servant or Assistant.

Richard Lucas, of Eatington, for 6*d*. demanded for Tithes, was prosecuted in the Ecclesiastical Court, at the Suit of John Brent, Priest, excommunicated, and committed to Warwick Goal, where he was kept Prisoner many Years.

About this Time also, William Harris was imprisoned on a Writ de Excommunicato capiendo for a pretended Contempt of the Ecclesiastical Court.

ANNO 1664. On the 7th of the Month called May, Henry Roe of Dallington, Daniel Roe of Whilton-Mill, Thomas Lenell of Whilton, Richard Gill of Whilton, and Edward Bassett of Daventry, all in the County of Northampton, having been at Warwick to visit their Friends there, returning homeward, were met on the Road by Sir John Knightly, a Justice of the Peace, who took from them several Goods, which were their Property, assigning no Cause for his so doing, but that they were Quakers : He brought them back to Warwick, tendred them the Oath of Allegiance, and for refusing it sent them to Prison, where they remained above a Month.

About this Time the following Persons were prosecuted in the Bishop's Court, and most of them excommunicated, viz.

Anthony Brickly and his Wife, Adam Gibbs and his Wife, John Barford and his Wife, William Teal and his Wife, Robert Spicer and his Wife, Edward Harwood and his Wife, William Aubury and his Wife, Edward Swinfen and his Wife, William Banbury and his Wife, Thomas Walsey and his Wife, Thomas Sabell and his Wife, William Jackson, William Vernam, Rose Eagles, John Corbett, Mary Wyatt, Ralph Cliden, Edward Whatcott, John Gunn, Edward Corbett, John Wyatt, Margery Gunn, Matthew Kent, Mary Kent, William Jakeman, Thomas Walker, William Wyatt, Gabriel Simmons, George Adams, and Richard Buller.

William Lucas, of Eatington, had his Goods taken by Distress for a Fine for being absent from his Parish-Church, at a Time when it was impossible for him

WAR-
WICK
SHIRE.
1661.

Suffering for
Tithes.

Imprisonments
on Writs de
Excom. Cap.

Cruel Oppres-
sion of Robert
Field, above
ninety three
Years of Age.

Imprisonment
on Writs de
Excom. Cap.

Several re-
turning from
visiting their
Friends in
Prison appre-
hended.

Prosecutions
and Excom-
munications.

A Prisoner
fined for Ab-
sence from his
Parish-Church.

WAR-
WICK-
SHIRE.
1664.



to be there, being kept close Prisoner by the Priest of the same Parish for Tithes.

Old Robert Field, of Ealington, aged above ninety three, had also his Goods taken by Distress for not going to his Parish Church, though it was well known he was at that Time unable to go one Step out of Doors.

Walter Newton and Nathanael Newton were indicted at a Quarter Sessions, fined, and had an Attachment granted against them for Absence from the Parish Church.

The Christian Patience, Courage, and Constancy of the Sufferers about this Time at Warwick, appears by the following Copy of a Letter written out of the Dungeon there by Edward Bourne, one of the Prisoners, viz.

"To Sir CHARLES LEE, with the rest of the COMMISSIONERS sitting in Warwick.

"Friends!

A Letter from
E. Bourne to
the Commis-
sioners.

"I Could have wisht we had had more Liberty to speak for our selves before you, that so you might more fully have understood us as to our Practice and Principles, and our Grounds and Reasons wherefore we may not Swear, by which I am persuaded you might have received much Satisfaction as to the Thing before mentioned, but the Keeper was forward in interrupting of us, and sending us back into the Dungeon, but whether he had received any such Order from you, before we came into your Presence, I shall leave the Thing, wishing well unto you and him, which will be by your turning unto the Light of Christ in your Consciences, and taking Heed thereunto, that it may lead you into all Truth, that so your Souls may be saved from the Evil to come. Now in regard our Time was short when we were with you, that we had not the Liberty to clear Things before you, I was free to write something in Answer to what was objected, when it was demanded, *Whether we could Swear?* I answered, *I dare not Swear, because Christ forbid it, who said, Swear not at all.* It was objected, *Not in your Communication, which is an Addition to the Words of Christ, who said, Swear not at all.* Now before Christ came, frivolous Oaths were not admitted of, but they were *to Swear in Righteousness and Truth, and were to perform their Oaths unto the Lord;* but saith Christ, *I say, Swear not at all.* So now he is come whom Moses prophesied of, who is the End of the Prophets, of whom John bare Witness, that Great Prophet Christ Jesus, *who is the Light and Life of Men, and who fears not him, must be cut off from amongst the People, and he saith, Swear not at all.* And though it was objected, that the Apostle said to the Hebrews, *An Oath among Men is to them an End of all Strife.* I answer, The Apostle did not bring that to make void the Command of Christ, who said, *Swear not at all;* but the Apostle brought that as a Comparison to shew what an Oath among Men was to signify: But who come to learn of Christ, comes to the End of Oaths, the End of Strife, the End of Contention, where *Glory unto God on high* is given, and *on Earth, Peace and Goodwill among Men* followeth. And so you may take Notice, that what we do, we do it not in any Contempt of the King, or you that govern under him, but in Obedience to the Lord our God, with whom we have great Peace in our present Sufferings, blessed for ever be his holy Name, in whom we trust, and in whom we do believe that he will deliver us in the Time appointed, unto whom we leave it to plead our Cause with you, who is Just, Righteous, and Holy altogether, who will reward every one according to their Works, with whom there is no Respect of Persons, and so I subscribe my self

"A true Friend unto you, who am a Lover of your immortal Souls,

From the Dungeon in Warwick, the
6th of the Twelfth Month 1660.

"EDWARD BOURNE."

Thus

Thus through *Faith* and *Patience* they abode stedfastly obedient to the Precept of Christ, which they were fully persuaded to contain an exprefs Prohibition of all Swearing; in which Point they held fast the Profession of their Faith without wavering, nor could they be moved by any Sufferings which the Laws of Men were able to inflict, from keeping their Consciences void of Offence toward God in this Respect.

W A R-
W I C K-
S H I R E.
1664.

ANNO 1670. In this Year the religious Assemblies of this People were sometimes held in the House of *Samuel Lucas*, of *Eatington*, which *John Clark*, Priest of that Parish, pretended himself bound in Conscience to oppose, and accordingly he became an Informer, telling them, that *He was obliged in Point of Conscience to prosecute the Law against them*; and when one of them asked him, *Whether if the Law had been made to hang them, he would do it?* his Answer was, *Yes he would*. So that in him was verified the Saying of Christ, *The Time cometh, that whosoever killeth you, will think that he doth God good Service*. John xvi. 2. This Priest came with an Officer to the Meeting, and took down the Names of the Persons met, and upon his Information the said *Samuel Lucas* was fined 40*l.* and for that Fine had taken from him four Cows, Wheat and Pease, to the Value of 44*l.* 10*s.* The same Priest afterward informed again, and caused the said *Samuel* to be fined 10*l.* for which the Priest himself went with the Officers to make Distress, but finding only a blind Horse in the Stable, the Officers would have left him, as little worth, but the Priest ordered them to *take him, knock him on the Head, and sell his Skin*. For Meeting at the same Place was taken from *William Lucas*, of *Lamcott*, Barley worth 2*l.* 10*s.* At the Time of making this Seizure, *Richard Lucas*, Brother of the said *William*, was Overseer of the Poor, and was required by the Constable to go with him to distrain his Brother's Goods, which he refused to do, for which Refusal he was fined, and had a Cow taken from him worth 40*s.* *Robert Buller*, for Meetings there, suffered by Distress of Goods at several Times, to the Value of 10*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* Also *John Field*, of *Eatington*, had a Cow and Barley taken from him worth 3*l.* *John Homlins*, of *Halford*, Goods worth 6*s.* And from *Adam Gibbs* they took an Hat and Shirt worth 7*s.* 10*d.* *John Wilson*, for a Fine of 5*s.* had his Door broke open, and his Goods seized.

A Priest pro-
fessing Con-
science for
Acts of Perse-
cution.

ANNO 1678. In this Year an unusual Instance of Ecclesiastical Oppression occurs to our Notice. It happened that one *John Marshall*, of *Ipsley* died, and by his last Will appointed a Kinsman of his of the same Name, dwelling at *Southwark* in the County of *Surry*, his Executor, to take Care of his Effects for the Use of his only Child; the said *John Marshall*, of *Ipsley*, while living, was excommunicated in the Bishop of *Worcester's* Court, for not paying 3*s.* 6*d.* toward the Repairs of the Parish-Church. After his Death, *John Moore* and *William Miles*, Wardens of the said Parish of *Ipsley*, at whose Suit he had been excommunicated, got an Administration out of the Bishop's Court for their pretended Due of 3*s.* 6*d.* and the Court-Charges, and taking Advantage of the Executor's Absence, seized and carried away a Mare worth 4*l.* also two Calves, and as much Hay as was worth 10*l.* All which being more than sixty Times their original Demand, they detained from the Executor and Orphan who were justly intituled thereto by Law.

An Instance of
Ecclesiastical
Oppression.

The END of the FIRST VOLUME.

W A R.
W I C K.
S H I R E.
1764.

A List pro-
posed for
the Con-
sideration
of the
House of
Commons.

Thus through Faith and Patience they abode stedfastly obedient to the Precept of Christ, which they were fully persuaded to contain an explicit Prohibition of all Swearing: in which Point they held fast the Profession of their Faith without wavering, nor could they be moved by any Sufferings which the Laws of Men were able to inflict, from keeping their Conscience void of Offence towards God in this Respect.

ANNO 1670. In this Year the religious Assemblies of this People were sometimes held in the House of Samuel Lucas, of Eastington, which John Clark, Clerk of that Parish, pretended himself bound in Conscience to oppose; and accordingly he became an Informer, telling them, that he was obliged in Point of Conscience to prosecute the Law against them; and when one of them asked him, Whether if the Law had been made to hang them, he would do it? his Answer was, Yes he would. So that in him was verified the Saying of Christ, The Time cometh, that whoever killeth you, will think that he hath God good Service. John xvi. 2. This Trick came with an Officer to the Meeting, and took down the Names of the Persons met, and upon his Information the said Samuel Lucas was fined 40*l*. and for that Fine had taken from him four Cows, Wheat and Peas, to the Value of 4*l*. 10*s*. The same Trick afterwards in- formed again, and caused the said Lucas to be fined 10*l*. for which the Parish himself went with the Officers to make Distress, but finding only a blind Horse in the stable, the Officers would have left him, as little worth, but the Parish ordered them to take him, knock him on the Head, and sell his Skin. For placing at the same Place was taken from William Lucas, of Eastington, Barley worth 2*l*. 10*s*. At the Time of making this Search, Richard Lucas, Brother of the said William, was Overseer of the Poor, and was required by the Constable to go with him to distress his Brother's Goods, which he refused to do, for which Richard he was fined, and had a Cow taken from him worth 2*l*. Robert Barker, for Meetings there, assisted by Districts of Goods at several Times, to the Value of 10*l*. 8*s*. 6*d*. Also John Field, of Eastington, had a Cow and Barley taken from him worth 2*l*. John Thomas, of Harnham, Goods worth 6*l*. And from Anna Goss the 10*l*. and 10*s*. and 10*d*. and 10*d*. John Williams, for a Fine of 5*l*. and his Door broke open, and his Goods seized.

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